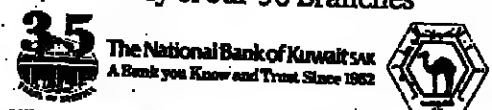


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## UN debates PLO mission closure

UNITED NATIONS, March 18, (AP): The General Assembly convened its second emergency session in two weeks today to demand that the United States halt efforts to close the PLO mission.

Some members also wanted to ask the United Nations to consider providing space on its international territory to house the PLO mission. Currently, the mission is located near the UN compound near the centre of New York city.

### Collision

In its special meeting, which was to continue on Monday and Tuesday, the General Assembly was also expected to consider possible legal action to keep the PLO mission open and to protect its rights to free speech and association.

The PLO mission issue has placed the United States on a collision course with the United Nations and the current session promised to be stormy.

## 60pc Kuwaiti women overweight

SIXTY per cent of Kuwaiti women and 30 per cent of Kuwaiti men are overweight, according to a field study made by a researcher, Abdul Wahab Al Issa, a local newspaper said yesterday.

He said 33 per cent of Kuwaiti women were of average weight and only seven per cent were underweight.

He said 72 per cent of Kuwaiti women did not do any kind of physical exercise and this helped accumulation of fat on their bodies.

He said that 44 per cent of spinners and 66 per cent of married women were overweight.

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آج کے درجہ حرارت

○ سویت یونین جنوا سمجھوتے سے قطع نظر افغانستان سے اپنی فوج واپس بلانے کا

○ عراق اور ایران میں شہر اور شیکوں کی جنگ مزید تیز ہو گئی

○ بشار کے قریب ایک کپڑے کی گاڑی میں بم کا دھماکا

○ لبنان کی دارالحکومت کی پالیوں پر اسرائیلی فضائیہ کی بمباری

○ مقبوضہ علاقوں میں اسرائیلی فوجوں کے ہاتھوں ایک اور فلسطینی ہلاک

○ لاہور ٹائمز

## WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with moderate southeasterly wind may freshen at times and some clouds will appear.  
State of sea: moderate to rough  
High water: 12.30 am, 1.00 pm  
Low water: 7.00 am, 7.00 pm  
Sunrise: 5.53 am  
Sunset: 5.59 pm  
Maximum temperature recorded:  
Kuwait: 26°C 79°F  
Ahmad: 22°C 72°F  
Falka: 24°C 75°F  
Maximum temperature expected:  
Kuwait: 28°C 82°F  
Ahmad: 24°C 75°F  
Falka: 26°C 79°F  
Minimum temperature recorded:  
Kuwait: 13°C 55°F  
Ahmad: 17°C 63°F  
Falka: 17°C 63°F  
Maximum humidity recorded:  
Kuwait: 73 per cent  
Ahmad: 71 per cent  
Falka: 80 per cent  
Maximum humidity expected:  
Kuwait: 85 per cent  
Ahmad: 89 per cent  
Falka: 92 per cent

## Baghdad repels attack on central front

# Iran captures 2 Iraqi towns

NICOSIA, March 18, (Agencies): Iran said its forces fired 31 missiles into Iraqi cities today, shot down five Iraqi jets and thrust deeper into northeast Iraq, capturing two garrison towns.

Iraq said its Army retaliated by shooting seven long-range missiles into Tehran. Iran's official media, monitored in Nicosia, reported at least one child killed and an undisclosed number of civilians wounded.

### Clashes

Iran said it captured the strategic Iraqi towns of Halahja yesterday and Khoramal earlier during a major land offensive.

An Iraqi Defence Ministry spokesman Abdul-Jabbar Mohsen said yesterday, Iran had occupied the Iraqi border towns of Halahja and Khoramal after destroying them in bombardments.

But he denied Iranian reports of fighting, saying Iraqi forces had withdrawn from both towns some time ago. He did not specify when.

Mohsen described Iranian reports of clashes in the area as part of an "attempt to cover up Tehran's crime of the destruction of Halahja and the townships close to it, which its forces had occupied later."

Iraq said today its troops killed 800 Iranian soldiers in an overnight battle on the central war front, while its jets hit two ships in the Gulf and a salvo of missiles was hurled at Tehran.

### Flee

A military spokesman said Iraqi infantry, armour and artillery units repelled an Iranian ground attack against Iraqi forward positions on the central front.

"Our forces killed 800 Iranian soldiers ... the only survivors

were those very few who managed to flee," he said.

Iran reported heavy fighting in the Sumar border area northeast of Baghdad.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Defence Minister General Adnan Kheirullah and Minister of State for Military Affairs General Abdul-Jabbar Shanshal met unit commanders in the north sector of the war front.

There was no report of fighting in the north, where Iran said it was continuing a drive in the mountainous Kurdish area of Iraq.

INA quoted Kheirullah as saying: "Iran's insistence on its irresponsible attitudes will force Iraq to take stronger and more severe measures, and at the same time we will keep our hands open for peace."

Iran claimed its Revolutionary Guards captured an Iraqi divisional commander during their thrust into Iraq's

Sulaymaniyah province north of Baghdad.

Irna, named the officer as Major-General Ali Hussein Abaid Al-Agawi, commander of Iraq's 43rd Infantry Division.

### Missile

Today's Iraqi missile attacks raised to 31 the number of long-range Al Hussein projectiles Baghdad says it has lobbed into the Iranian capital since the "war of the cities" exploded again Sunday after a two-day lull.

Baghdad said its forces fired seven missiles at Tehran today in one salvo.

Iraq has fired about 100 missiles at Tehran and other Iranian centres since the war of the cities erupted late last month.

An Iraqi military spokesman said Iraqi anti-aircraft gunners downed two Iranian jets, an F-5 over the southern sector and an F-4 Phantom over the northern

(Continued on Page 5)

## Colombian plane crash kills 137

BOGOTA, March 18, (Reuters): The crash of an Avianca Airlines Boeing 727 that killed all 137 people on board left dismembered bodies strewn over the mountain top which the plane hit just minutes after taking off.

"I regret to have to say that there are no intact bodies. They are all mutilated," Governor Eduardo Assas Alcure of Norte de Santander province told the local radio station.

Police inspector Cesar Augusto Bautista, the first man to reach the crash site, told journalists he had been sickened by what he saw.

"I saw a man's head with curly hair, various human torsos, a woman's hand with varnished nails, and pieces of legs," he said.

### Remains

"There are some kind of terraces, like balconies, where there are human remains, clothes, suitcases and footballs. I recovered six identity cards and banknotes which I handed over to the police," Bautista said.

Relatives and the curious rushed toward the crash scene, on Sugarloaf mountain, creating traffic jams.

There was no official explanation for yesterday's crash, the worst air disaster to occur in Colombia this decade.

The plane, on a flight from Cucuta, near the border with Venezuela, to the Caribbean resort of Cartagena, hit the mountain about 40 metres (yards) from the top and the impact started a small landslide which covered part of the broken fuselage.

Rescue workers, encouraged by initial reports of possible survivors, found only bodies and debris when they reached the top of the steep slope.

The plane was carrying 131 passengers and six crew members. About half the passengers worked for the state oil firm Ecopetrol, including members of three amateur soccer teams which were to play a tournament.

### Victims

A former member of parliament and a bishop were thought to be among the victims.

The Red Cross built a small heliport on top of the mountain during the night so that helicopters could start bringing down bodies in the morning. However, the condition of the bodies made the retrieval effort more difficult.

## Runaway husband

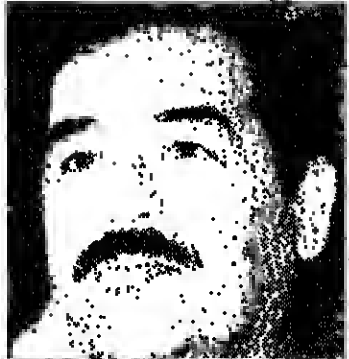
CIVITANOVA, MARCHE, Italy, March 18, (Reuters): Luigi Guidotti packed his trunk and said goodbye to the circus when the wife he walked out on 15 years ago spotted him in the ring.

Guidotti's wife and daughter were in the audience last night when the travelling circus called at Civitanova Marche, on Italy's Adriatic coast. His incredulous wife recognised Luigi, 54, as he moved equipment between acts in the big top. She called a policeman and then confronted her spouse.

## AI Rai Al Aam suspended

THE daily AI Rai Al Aam did not come out on Thursday and a spokesman for the paper said the newspaper has been suspended for three days by the Information Ministry.

## 'Iran will halt war if it loses more'



Saddam

CAIRO, March 18, (Reuters): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said yesterday as saying he believed Iran would accept peace in the Gulf war only when it was losing more than it gained.

"Iranian rulers may one day opt for peace ... only when they feel that the war makes them lose more than they gain," he told the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram in an interview.

"They will not do so as a positive response to logic and reason, but out of failure to achieve their expansion goals ... at the expense of the Arabs and the Islamic nation," he added.

Hussein said a unified Arab stand and international pressure could help change the Iranian attitude towards peace attempts.

Asked to comment on efforts by Arab Gulf states to start a dialogue with Tehran, Hussein said: "We still believe that the best way is that the Iraqis should understand that the Arabs are united against Iranian aggression."

### UN invitation

UNITED NATIONS, March 18, (Reuters): Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has invited Iran and Iraq to send special emissaries for separate talks at the United Nations on a possible ceasefire in the Gulf war, the world body announced.

House departure ceremony. Reagan said Shamir did not specifically say "no" to an international peace conference demanded by Jordan's King Hussein with US support.

Secretary of State George Shultz also insisted the US would not alter its new Mideast peace initiative despite strong Israeli opposition.

However, Shamir made clear that he rejected the idea. "I have strong reservations concerning the proposed international conference, which in my view is not conducive to peace," he told reporters.

The State Department aired its disagreement with the Israeli premier and issued a point-by-point rebuttal of Shamir's arguments and once again insisted that no party could take one part of Shultz's plan and reject other parts of the package.



Israeli soldiers pursuing a Palestinian youth yesterday during demonstrations in Ramallah. (Reuters wirephoto)

## One killed on 100th day of uprising

# Violence flares despite clampdown

GAZA, March 18, (Agencies): Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian and wounded at least 26 in violence after Friday prayers in the Gaza Strip amid a widening clampdown on the 100th day of the Palestinian uprising, UN officials said.

They said Hani Ibrahim Abu Hamam, 23, was shot dead during clashes in the Shat' al-Rif refugee camp. Twenty-one people were injured by gunfire and treated at two Gaza hospitals, the hospital registers showed.

The Army closed the entire Gaza Strip to the press and ordered reporters to leave moments before they charged the protesters in the teeming coastal refugee camp.

### Erupted

The death brought to at least 98 the unofficial toll of Palestinians who have died in the unrest which erupted in the Gaza Strip on Dec 9.

Clashes were also reported in the occupied West Bank, where witnesses said an Army helicopter dumped gravel on a crowd of demonstrators in Ramallah today while troops opened fire on crowds in other areas.

The disturbances came despite an overnight round-up of dozens of suspected Palestinian activists, which security sources said was aimed at preventing widespread rioting on Land Day on March 30, commemorating the death of six Israeli Arabs in a 1976 demonstration against land confiscation.

### Donations

In Gaza, troops were stationed outside every mosque to try to prevent what have become weekly mass demonstrations in which worshippers stone troops, burn tyres and block roads.

It was only the second time since the start of the uprising that the military had barred journalists from the whole Gaza Strip, although officers routinely order reporters and photographers out of any area during disturbances.

In the West Bank, two Ramallah men were taken to hospital with gunshot wounds. One had a rare blood type and doctors collected blood donations from other demonstrators who had

clashed with troops around the hospital.

Today was the first time the Army was known to use a gravel-sowing helicopter to disperse a crowd. Last week the Army unveiled a machine that fired gravel at a high velocity at ground level.

Many people were hit but most said it was not painful. Tear gas grenades failed to disperse the crowd and about 250 youths and women marched through Ramallah's streets waving outlawed Palestinian flags, chanting slogans and throwing stones.

Israeli academics protested to the Army over the arrest last night of Gaza Attorney Mohamed Hashem Abu Shaban on his return from speaking at a Tel Aviv University seminar where he condemned the beating of Palestinians by soldiers.

The professors, from a group called "No Further," appealed to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin for the unconditional release of Abu Shaban, who was placed in administrative detention without trial for six months for unspecified "hostile activity within the Gaza Lawyers' Union."

### Arrest

Security sources said large scale "preventive arrests" were being made ahead of unrest expected on Land Day.

Military censors barred journalists from reporting the scale of the planned arrests or other imminent security measures.

The arrests were the latest of a series of economic, administrative and security measures imposed this week in a bid to choke off the uprising.

Israeli occupation authorities have banned fuel supplies to the West Bank, imposed overnight curfews on the Gaza Strip, cut international telephone links with the occupied areas and forced shops to close during hours permitted for business by strike organisers.

The clandestine United National Leadership of the Uprising has called for a "day of fierce confrontation" next Monday to mark the anniversary of a 1968 Israeli raid on Palestinian commandos in Jordan.

to launch negotiations, and therefore there will be no negotiations without a properly structured conference."

The statement noted that the United States had built in a number of safeguards to prevent the conference from imposing its will on any of the negotiating parties.

In a further assurance that would protect the Israelis from having to deal with organisations they consider to be terrorists, the US approach would insist that "all conference attendees will be required to accept UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and to renounce violence and terrorism."

## Iranian gunboats chased off

# Five tankers hit in Gulf

DUBAI, March 18, (Agencies): A French warship and Omani patrol craft chased off Iranian gunboats attacking one of several ships hit in the Gulf today, regional shipping sources said.

Shipping officials said that Iranian gunboats attacked three tankers in the southern Gulf today.

A Japanese seaman was killed on one ship as the tanker war flared up again in earnest after a month of relative calm.

### Raced

The Japanese news agency Kyodo identified the dead crewman as Shizuo Ninomi, a 46-year-old Japanese seaman. The agency said some of the injured were in serious condition.

The sources, who spoke to the master, said the 87,768-tonne

Singapore-owned and flagged Neptune Siburu was hit by rockets and gunfire.

"I am surrounded by Iranian gunboats," the captain radioed as he came under fire while entering the Gulf at midday. He told the sources a French warship and Omani patrol boats raced to the scene and the gunboats fled.

Damage was minor and there were no casualties among the mainly Singaporean crew, the sources said. The ship was later reported off Sharjah heading for Dubai.

Also inbound to Dubai was the 284,494-tonne Berge Lord, attacked by gunboats in the Strait of Hormuz two hours earlier.

The Norwegian supertanker suffered minor damage and no crew were injured. Reporters in a

helicopter said the ship had one rocket hole below the bridge. A small fire was quickly put out.

In Iran's first attack on shipping for over a month, naval units hit the Japanese-owned Liquid Gas carrier Maria 2 eight miles off Dubai just after midnight, killing a Japanese crewman and injuring nine other crew.

### Missing

Tugs raced to the ship, whose crew quarters and bridge were engulfed in flames. They brought the fire under control as volatile liquid gas spewed into the sea from a punctured tank.

The Japanese and South Korean crew, at first reported missing, reached Dubai by lifeboat where the wounded were

(Continued on Page 5)

## Total solar eclipse seen in Philippines

DAVAO, Philippines, March 18, (Agencies): Dogs howled, cocks crowed and pregnant women rinsed their hair in rice water today when a total solar eclipse darkened the skies over the Philippines for the first time since 1955.

President Corason Aquino and Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos were among the estimated 20,000 sight-seers and scientists who jammed the cities of Davao and General Santos for the event, seen as a total eclipse only in the nation's extreme southern tip and parts of Indonesia.

### Swallowed

For three minutes as the shadow of the moon swallowed the sun, there were no debts to pay, no family quarrels to patch up, no broken hearts to mend — just the spectacle of the world going into total darkness. It was the last total eclipse in Asia of the 20th century.

"It's so very beautiful... I don't think I'll ever witness the same thing again in my lifetime," Kenneth Ciraco, a 17-year-old student, told a reporter.

The bright morning sun shining from a clear blue tropical sky faded for about an hour before turning into a black hole at 9.03 am (0103 GMT). Only a faintly glowing halo lightened the gloom of this most eerie of natural phenomena.

The eclipse, the like of which Asia will not see again until 2042, cut a black swathe through the southern Philippine island of Mindanao. Scientists said it would be partially visible from Japan, through South-East Asia and down to New Zealand, and parts of the South Pacific.

## Israeli jets blast Palestinian base

SHEMLAN, Lebanon, March 18, (Reuters): Israeli jets destroyed a hilltop Palestinian base in this Druze-held village yesterday, killing a commando and wounding four people, including a two-year-old boy.

Security sources said four planes fired five rockets at the position of the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) in the Talet Shemlan area, south-east of Beirut.

Palestinian and Druze anti-aircraft batteries shot at the jets and the roar of explosions echoed across West Beirut, where more than 7,000 Syrian troops were deployed in February last year.

### Refused

The firing forced Beirut airport, which lies at the foot of steep hills leading to Shemlan, to close for 15 minutes.

A two-storey house used as a DFLP base was demolished in the 15-minute airstrike, its Palestinian commander said. He refused to give his name.

## Saudis buying Chinese missiles

WASHINGTON, March 18, (Reuters): The Washington Post said today that China was selling medium-range missiles to Saudi Arabia which could reach any part of the Middle East with a nuclear warhead.

But both countries said the missiles would not be used for nuclear purposes, the newspaper added.

The Chinese CSS-2 class surface-to-surface missiles, with a

maximum range of 2,200 miles (3,560 km), could permit Saudi Arabia to exert more influence on disputes such as the Gulf war and Arab-Israeli conflicts, the Washington Post said.

Saudi Arabia had assured the United States that it did not have or intend to acquire nuclear capability and China had assured Washington it would not sell nuclear weapons to any other country, the newspaper reported.



## INTERNATIONAL

US presidential candidates silent on Israeli unrest

## Gephardt in last-ditch recovery drive

DETROIT, March 18. (Reuters): Richard Gephardt, limping in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, plans to spend \$500,000 in a big last-ditch recovery drive when the contest moves to Michigan on March 26.

"I'm the underdog. I have to win to stay in the campaign," said the Missouri congressman. Aides said Gephardt planned to spend lavishly on commercials chasing the votes of blue-collar workers worried about competition from foreign vehicle makers.

Democrats in the heavily industrial state, whose car industry is worried about foreign imports, will select 138 delegates in a party caucus next Saturday to the Democratic nominating convention in July.

**Impose**  
Gephardt vows to crack down on foreign trade competitors who he says impose limits on US imports. He hopes his trade message will win major support among the state's 600,000 car workers.

Gephardt says Michigan is crucial to his hopes of surviving the rest of the nomination fight. "I'm making a major thrust to try to get every town, every media market. I think Michigan will get us back in the middle of the campaign," he added.

In the Republican camp, Vice-President George Bush is sailing towards the nomination, but the five Democratic candidates are in disarray, with no clear candidate emerging.

**Unrest**  
Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis is in the lead with 545 delegates, followed by black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson with 515, Tennessee Senator Albert Gore with 365, Simon with 180 and Gephardt with 155. It takes 2,082 delegates to win the Democratic nomination.

Despite daily reports of the violent uprising in Israeli-occupied territories, little has been heard about the Palestinian turmoil from US presidential candidates.

None of Republican and Democratic hopefuls have said much about the unrest now in its fourth month in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Asked if Vice-President George Bush has commented about the uprising, Bush press secretary Peter Teelie replied: "No one has asked him."

Bush appears to be running away with the Republican nomination and boasts of long experience and expertise in foreign affairs.

Most of the candidates, including Bush, are strong supporters of Israel and also back the latest US Middle East peace initiative, which is strongly opposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

That may be one reason for the general reluctance to comment on the Palestinian unrest.

**Potent**  
Political analysts also point to the traditional reluctance of the politician to upset a potent source of the electorate, particularly the small but highly influential American Jewish community which is an important source of campaign financing.

"The deadly silence," is what the Arab American Institute called the lack of debate by candidates on Middle East policy.

"This is a profoundly disturbing fact, in light of both our interests and deep involvement in the Middle East and the real dangers to world peace in this critical part of the world," the group said in a recent analysis of candidates' remarks.

## Ben Ali frees 1,400 Tunisians

TUNIS, March 18. (Reuters): Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali freed more than 1,400 prisoners today, his third major pardon since taking power more than four months ago.

The latest pardon was to mark the 32nd anniversary on Sunday of Tunisia's independence from France, the official news agency Tapsaid.

Under two presidential decrees in December, which fell short of opposition demands for a general amnesty, hundreds of Islamic militants were freed.

In today's pardon, 1,275 prisoners were freed without conditions while 182 more were released conditionally, Tapsaid.

Reagan orders troops into Honduras

## Air raid on Nicaragua

TEGUCIGALPA, March 18. (Reuters): Honduras, apparently encouraged by a US show of military support, sent its Air Force on a bombing raid against Nicaraguan troops along their common border.

As the United Nations Security Council prepared to meet today at Nicaragua's request to discuss the border crisis, Honduras claimed the strike was confined to its own territory, while the Sandinista government, witnesses and a top US official said the attack was on Nicaragua.

**Offensive**  
President Reagan had ordered 3,200 US troops to Honduras in an open-ended show of strength which Washington says is to help counter a major Nicaraguan military offensive aimed at destroying Contra rebel forces.

Spokesman Martin Fitzwater, who announced the move at a hastily-called news briefing late on Wednesday in Washington, said the troops would be engaged in training exercises and would not enter "any area of ongoing hostilities."

He said Reagan acted at the request of Honduran President Jose Azcona and quoted the US

President as saying: "When friends ask for our support, we should provide it."

The Nicaraguans had launched an offensive against US-backed Contra rebels in the area this week and the United States and Honduras charged that the Nicaraguans invaded Honduran territory during the offensive.

**Air drop**  
Some 800 of the US troops from the elite 82nd Airborne Division who arrived at Palmerola Air Base in Honduras yesterday were scheduled for an air drop and a joint helicopter exercise today that was to bring US and Honduran troops closer to Nicaraguan forces.

Commanders said the exercise would still keep US troops more than 100 miles (160 km) from the Nicaraguan forces that the US and Honduran governments said invaded Honduras.

US troops continued to stream into Honduras in air transports for the emergency deployment training exercise ordered by President Reagan on Wednesday as a show of force against what US officials have called a Nicaraguan invasion.

The Honduran air raid, which US Assistant Secretary of State

Elliot Abrams said included targets inside Nicaragua, appeared to be a US-inspired move in retaliation for the Nicaraguan incursion, most regional diplomats said.

A photographer was among a group of journalists being briefed by Sandinista officers on the Nicaraguan side of the border when the Honduran fighter-bombers attacked. He saw one bomb hit the Honduran side, one in the Coco River which marks the border and one on the Nicaraguan side.

**Destroyed**  
US-supplied F-5 jet fighter-bombers of the Honduran Air Force avoided anti-aircraft missiles and apparently destroyed a Soviet-made helicopter in a raid on Nicaraguan forces yesterday, Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said.

Speaking to local reporters last night, Lopez Contreras said the helicopter was hit on the ground inside Honduran territory by Honduran bombs.

Lopez Contreras continued to insist the Honduran Air Force attacked Nicaraguan forces only inside Honduras, despite widespread reports that Nicaraguan territory was hit.

## Armenians still fleeing from Soviet 'riot' city

MOSCOW, March 18. (Reuters): Refugees from the Azerbaijani "pogrom" city of Sumgait are arriving daily in the Armenian capital of Yerevan by plane, car and bus, Yerevan residents said today.

The residents, contacted by telephone from Moscow, said some arrivals had been shown on Armenian television and local officials had been on hand to greet the refugees.

Yerevan Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation in London, said 1,661 refugees had arrived since Azerbaijani mobs hunted and killed Armenians in a day of rioting in Sumgait on February 28.

**Horrific**  
According to official figures, 32 people died, Armenians from Sumgait arriving in Moscow have said the toll was higher and have given horrific accounts of the violence.

A senior Soviet legal official heading a team of Moscow-based investigators in Sumgait said last weekend the city had been the site of a "pogrom" during which "terrible crimes" were committed.

On Thursday, Baku Radio in the Azerbaijani capital announced that the Communist Party chief and the mayor of Sumgait, an industrial centre with a population of 220,000, had been sacked.

## Onassis prize

ATHENS, March 18. (Reuters): Actress Elizabeth Taylor was awarded the 1988 Onassis prize "for man and society" today for her campaign against AIDS, the Onassis Foundation announced in Athens.

Coups attempt foiled

## Noriega purges senior officers

PANAMA CITY, March 18. (UPI): In another sign of discontent within the military, de facto Panamanian ruler Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega purged five senior officers one day after putting down an attempted coup.

A spokesman for the Panama defence forces said yesterday five officers, including Col. Bernardo Barrera, head of the G-2 military intelligence operation, were forced into retirement.

The spokesman did not say whether the five men were directly connected to the Wednesday coup attempt against Noriega, but the names of three of the five appeared on a list circulating in Panama City of officers involved in the plot.

Unconfirmed reports said at least some of the five had been arrested. The military also named Lt. Col. Eros Ramirez Cal as the interim head of the Panama City police, replacing the leader of the abortive coup, Col. Leonidas Macias.

**Purged**  
The defence forces listed the other purged officers as Majors Juan Oberto, Pablo Pinto and Jose Williams, and Capt. Orlando Rodriguez.

Hours before yesterday's firings were announced, a Noriega supporter within the ruling Revolutionary Democratic

Party said the coup attempt would allow Noriega to identify and purge his opponents within the Army and "free himself of the conspirators."

The supporter said the coup attempt had made Noriega stronger, but admitted that rising popular discontent could eventually threaten his rule.

Panama City was calm but tense yesterday. Army and police units took over electric power plants run by the state electric utility, known by its Spanish acronym Irhe, after electric workers blacked out the capital on Wednesday in a protest against Noriega.

**Curfew**  
The government declared a 6 pm to 6 am curfew in the city of Colon, at the Caribbean end of the Panama Canal. Residents said there had been extensive looting in downtown Colon and reported that the city remained without electricity.

The residents said police were using patrol cars equipped with loudspeakers to spread word of the curfew and warn people to stay indoors.

The US military southern command reported American service personnel and civilian employees of the Panama Canal Commission who are travelling on official business were exempted from the curfew in Colon.

## Yazov, Carlucci end wide-ranging talks

BERN, March 18. (Reuters): American and Soviet defence chiefs yesterday ended two days of unprecedented military discussions termed by both sides as useful but without breakthroughs.

US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said his meeting with Soviet Defence Minister General Dmitry Yazov had been "cordial and businesslike" with areas of agreement and disagreement.

"I wouldn't characterise my attitude as either pessimistic or optimistic," Carlucci told a news conference. "There are no breakthroughs. What this is communication — and it is good to keep the dialogue going."

A similar view was expressed by Yazov at his news conference. He said he would be returning to Moscow in a good mood after the talks which he described as a valuable exchange of opinions.

"Our conversations with Defence Secretary Carlucci were candid, very useful and conducted in a respectful manner," Yazov said.

Carlucci said the wide-ranging talks had covered arms control, military forces and regional issues including Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Angola and Korea.

"We had a discussion of our relative doctrines... they seemed to be saying that they are placing more emphasis on defence. They say it will be some time before this becomes obvious," he said.

Carlucci stressed that he had

seen or heard nothing on Soviet doctrine that should tempt the Nato alliance to change any of its military programmes.

"There are no visible signs of a change in doctrine. We need to keep our eyes open and look for the indicators," he said.

Asked if he could provide evidence of the declared Soviet shift in policy from offensive to defensive strategy, Yazov said it was up to both sides to provide tangible results.

"A military doctrine is difficult to see," he quipped. "A military doctrine is a whole complex of views of the military leadership of our country on defence issues."

Carlucci said both sides had agreed urgent measures were needed to prevent dangerous military incidents involving their armed forces.

He referred in particular to the case of US Army Major Arthur Nicholson, shot dead by Soviet troops in East Germany in March 1985, and said they had agreed on a need to set up a forum to discuss ways of preventing such incidents in future.

This would be discussed further during talks in Washington later this year between the US chairman of joint chiefs of staff, Admiral William Crowe, and Soviet armed forces chief Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev.

## Earthquake

TOKYO, March 18. (UPI): The strongest earthquake to hit the capital in 94 years jolted residents awake just before dawn today but caused no major injuries and little damage because the epicentre was 56 miles (90 km) below the surface.

## A lot of advice, but no end to hiccups

MINNEAPOLIS, March 18. (AP): A 94-year-old man's offer of \$10,000 to anyone who can end his 65 years of hiccuping has drawn some exotic nostrums — dill seed, magnesium phosphate, holy water, Indian hemp. But the man hiccups on.

"Unbelievable," Lucetta Peterson of rural Aitkin said as she sifted through some of the more than 5,000 letters, cassettes and parcels that have poured into her home from Europe and North America since her father, Charlie Osborne, offered the reward in January.

"People really care. Even though the \$10,000 is a big deal to some of them, a lot say keep the money and spend it in good health. It's unbelievable for that many people to write in this day and age," she said.

## Ranged

Suggested remedies have ranged from homespun concoctions involving sugar and vinegar to scientific nerve-treatment regimens complete with detailed diagrams. Others endorse the healing powers of the mind.

A California massage therapist explained how she cured a 75-year-old woman of a life-long hiccuping problem and offered to work similar magic on Osborne.

A man from Italy sent brown dust, explaining it is "vegetable powder" that will cure hiccups if inserted in the nostrils. A West German suggests pressing the right thumb against the little finger, while a Canadian swears that finger pressure applied to the bottom of the nose just right will expel the demon.

Many of the would-be healers have the utmost confidence in their cures.

## Stopped

In Boston a woman's 36-year bout of the hiccups stopped after she was given a drug to treat her newly diagnosed Parkinson's disease, a team of doctors said.

Until then, the 75-year-old woman's "hiccup bouts were almost continuous, with rare remissions lasting a maximum of six to eight weeks," the doctors wrote in a letter in New England Journal of Medicine.

## Arafat's brother dies

CAIRO, March 18. (Reuters): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat walked arm-in-arm with Egyptian ministers in Cairo today to mourn his elder brother Mustafa.

Surrounded by a tight ring of security men, the PLO chairman accepted condolences from Prime Minister Atef Sedki, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Maguid and Egyptian opposition leaders.

Mustapha Arafat, one of several family members living in the Egyptian capital, died in a Cairo hospital of cancer yesterday, aged 65.

## Beaten to death

NEW DELHI, March 18. (Reuters): Villagers in north-west India beat to death a 45-year-old man after he killed his two young sons and a daughter, the Press Trust of India said.

The news agency said police did not know why Mohan Bhowmik murdered his children, aged from six to 12, on Monday.

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Kremlin hopes Afghan accord will be reached

## Soviets determined to pull out

MOSCOW, March 18, (Reuters): The Soviet Union will withdraw its troops from Afghanistan regardless of whether a Geneva peace agreement is reached, a foreign ministry spokesman has said.

But the Kremlin would rather conduct the troop pullout as part of an international settlement, Vadim Perfilov, deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry's information directorate, told a news conference.

"The Soviet Union took a decision to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan and we'll do that," he said.

"But we would like to see it (the withdrawal) in the framework of those documents" under discussion at the Geneva peace talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, he said.

"If our decision is not welcomed, our withdrawal will be taken in other forms," Perfilov told reporters.

"We'll do it ourselves. We'll determine our own needs and our

own forms of withdrawal," he added that the Kremlin still hoped that an international settlement on the Afghan conflict would be reached.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced last month that Soviet troops — backing the Kabul regime since 1979 against Muslim rebels — would begin leaving on May 15 if a peace pact were reached by March 15 at UN-sponsored talks in Geneva.

But negotiations deadlocked on Pakistani demands that an interim Afghan government be formed and Washington's insistence that Moscow stop aiding the Kabul regime.

On Tuesday, after the negotiators failed to reach an accord in Geneva, the Soviet government said its troop withdrawal would have to be postponed.

Pakistan's chief negotiator in the Afghan talks has said in Geneva, next week's Washington meeting of the US and Soviet foreign ministers may help

unblock the Afghanistan peace talks.

Pakistan is seeking to settle an old border demarcation dispute with Afghanistan during the current UN talks. Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said.

The dispute goes back to 1893, when their joint border was established under the British-sponsored Durand agreement between Afghanistan and India, which at that time incorporated what is now Pakistan.

The United States accused the Soviet Union of making an issue out of an arbitrary troop withdrawal date rather than dealing seriously with key issues blocking an Afghanistan peace agreement.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said in Washington: "We remain committed to the Geneva negotiating process and we would hope that the Soviets would deal seriously with the issues that would allow an

agreement to be reached in Geneva."

The main Afghan Muslim guerrilla alliance suspended plans yesterday to send a delegation to Afghanistan peace talks in Geneva after what it called a negative Soviet response to the idea.

The alliance chairman Gulbuddin Hekmatyar told a news conference in Peshawar, Pakistan, the delegation would leave only if Moscow became ready to talk to the seven-member mujahideen alliance.

Hekmatyar said today that the Soviets are secretly trying to contact the mujahideen to discuss settlement terms of the war in Afghanistan.

He said only an agreement with the resistance would guarantee the Red Army's safe passage out of Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union has appointed a low-ranking official as its new ambassador to Afghanistan in a clear downgrading of the post.



Roh Tae-Woo

## Stay out of politics, Roh asks Army

SEOUL, March 18, (Agencies): President Roh Tae-Woo has ordered the military to stay out of politics and concentrate on national defence.

"No one should try to use the military for political purposes, and the military itself should remain guarded against being used politically," Roh said after receiving a briefing on the Defence Ministry's policies for this year.

Roh said the 650,000-member South Korean armed forces should evolve in a way compatible with democratic progress being made in political and another sectors.

Roh, a former Army general, said he noted in last December's presidential elections a considerable public anger over past military involvement in politics.

Defence Minister Oh Ja-Bok reported to Roh that his ministry plans to form a "research body" to study ways to ensure the military's political neutrality.

Meanwhile, South Korean opposition party leader Kim Dae-Jung bowed to public criticism and resigned yesterday to help form a merger of feuding opposition groups.

Park Young-Sook, vice-president of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), announced Kim's resignation at a news conference.

Kim said in a statement read to reporters he decided to relinquish control of the PPD to ensure an opposition victory in next month's parliamentary elections.

Wedding party tragedy in India

## 86 bodies of bus crash victims found

BHOPAL, India, March 18, (UPI): Rescue workers in central India yesterday prised out charred remains of at least 86 people killed when their overcrowded bus hurtled into a ditch and exploded in flames, a police official said.

The bus was carrying a wedding party. The driver and the bridegroom escaped by breaking the windshield. The fate of the bride is not known.

Toll

A. K. Pande, Bhopal Deputy Inspector General of Police, said the death toll could increase as officers worked into the night at the accident site at Simga, 460 miles (750 km) south of Madhya Pradesh state capital of Bhopal.

But he was sceptical about a report that 133 people had died in the late Wednesday crash of the bus carrying a group to a wedding.

He said more than 100 people — including women and about 40 children — were aboard the bus authorised to carry 55 passengers. But he said he did not believe the vehicle could carry

150 people, as two survivors were quoted as saying.

The driver lost control of the steering when he tried to change a tape in the cassette player and the bus hurtled against the side of a small bridge, Pande said.

Fire

It then swerved, careened into a ditch and overturned, causing the fuel tank to explode, which in turn reportedly ignited fireworks being carried to the wedding, he said.

"The diesel tank caught fire and engulfed the entire bus," Pande said. "Most of the bus passengers were roasted alive. It is difficult to identify them."

He said 86 bodies had been retrieved through a hole rescue workers cut in the roof, and more bodies were to be recovered. Twenty-four passengers escaped through the smashed front windshield, he said.

A survivor identified only as Ibrahim was quoted by a news agency as saying that after fleeing the burning vehicle, he smashed several windows and managed to drag out eight people.

## Ershad plans to end poll fraud

DHAKA, March 18, (Reuters): President Hussain Mohammad Ershad said he plans to overhaul Bangladesh's electoral system to end charges of ballot rigging, violence and election fraud.

"After every election there have been charges of rigging and fraud. It cannot be denied today that candidates belonging to different parties have resorted to irregularities in the polls," Ershad said in interviews published by government-owned newspapers on Thursday.

"I expect changes in the electoral system would end such irregularities," he said. Reforms would be worked out by a proposed commission headed by a supreme court judge and submitted to parliament, the President said.

"What I want is that a new electoral system be evolved through extensive discussions... and consensus among the political forces."

## Terror

"Terror tactics and bomb throwing have become part of today's elections, which often do not reflect the public opinion properly. We must find a way out, and soon."

Opposition leaders say Ershad's Jatiya Party won the March 3 parliamentary elections, "by unprecedented fraud."

"They have stolen the victory at gunpoint and by indulging in unprecedented fraud," Begum Khaleda Zia, chairperson of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), told a rally.

Jatiya took 250 of the 298 seats decided so far in the 300-member parliament. A coalition of 76 fringe groups won 18 seats in violence-marred polls in which at least 15 people died.

## Opposed

Opposition parties also told the rally they opposed Ershad's decision to make Islam the state religion of the world's third most populous Muslim country.

Meanwhile, nearly 200 Bangladeshis who fled years ago to escape poverty returned home yesterday leaving behind "lives only nightmares can match."

## Sri Lankan Army kills 10 Tigers

TRINCOMALEE, Sri Lanka, March 18, (Reuters): Sri Lanka's Army killed 10 people in its first gunbattle with Tamil rebels since a July peace pact aimed at ending the island's ethnic conflict, military officials said today.

Colonel Lakshman Wijerathne, acting security coordinating officer of this Eastern District, told reporters 10 soldiers fought 20 rebels on Wednesday in the rebel's hideout at Kilankulam after hunting them for a day.

Eight members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam separatist group and two of four young women cooking for them were killed, he said.

He said the rebels belonged to a group who shot, hacked and burned alive 15 villagers from the Sinhalese majority on Tuesday.

The battle was fought without consultation with the Indian peacekeeping force sent to Sri Lanka to implement the Indian-Sri Lankan pact to end the five-year-old Tamil rebellion.

Sri Lankan troops are supposed to be confined to their barracks under the pact.

## Bid to stifle protests

## Burma jails hundreds of students

BANGKOK, March 18, (Reuters): Troops waded into Rangoon University firing tear gas and wielding batons yesterday to quell growing student protests in the Burmese capital, reports reaching Bangkok said.

Hundreds of demonstrators were jailed and about 50 students injured by troops and police who moved against several thousand student protesters, informed sources said.

Roads to the university, including Prime Road linking Rangoon with the airport, were closed.

The radio said an official

probe had been launched into the death of a student, shot during weekend riots at Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT) which sparked the growing student disturbances.

"The investigation commission is to inquire into how the incident started (and) who is responsible for the death of a student due to a gunshot wound," it said on last night.

The unrest, worst since 1974 demonstrations brutally crushed by the government, spread to Rangoon University where students objected to the government blaming RIT students for the riots in which 13 people were injured.

"Reports are that up to 500 students have been jailed at Insein prison (in Rangoon)," one source said. "The government intends to take a hard line."

Cordons of troops have surrounded campuses, isolating the trouble spots. Other parts of the capital are quiet but troops and police have increased security at government buildings.

## Terrorist attacks increase

WASHINGTON, March 18, (Reuters): 1987 was the worst year yet for terrorism, according to the US State Department which blamed Afghanistan for making it also the bloodiest in the 20 years the department has been monitoring terrorist incidents.

"The overall number of terrorist attacks rose, making 1987 the worst year ever," L. Paul Bremer, the State Department's top terrorism expert, told the House of Representatives.

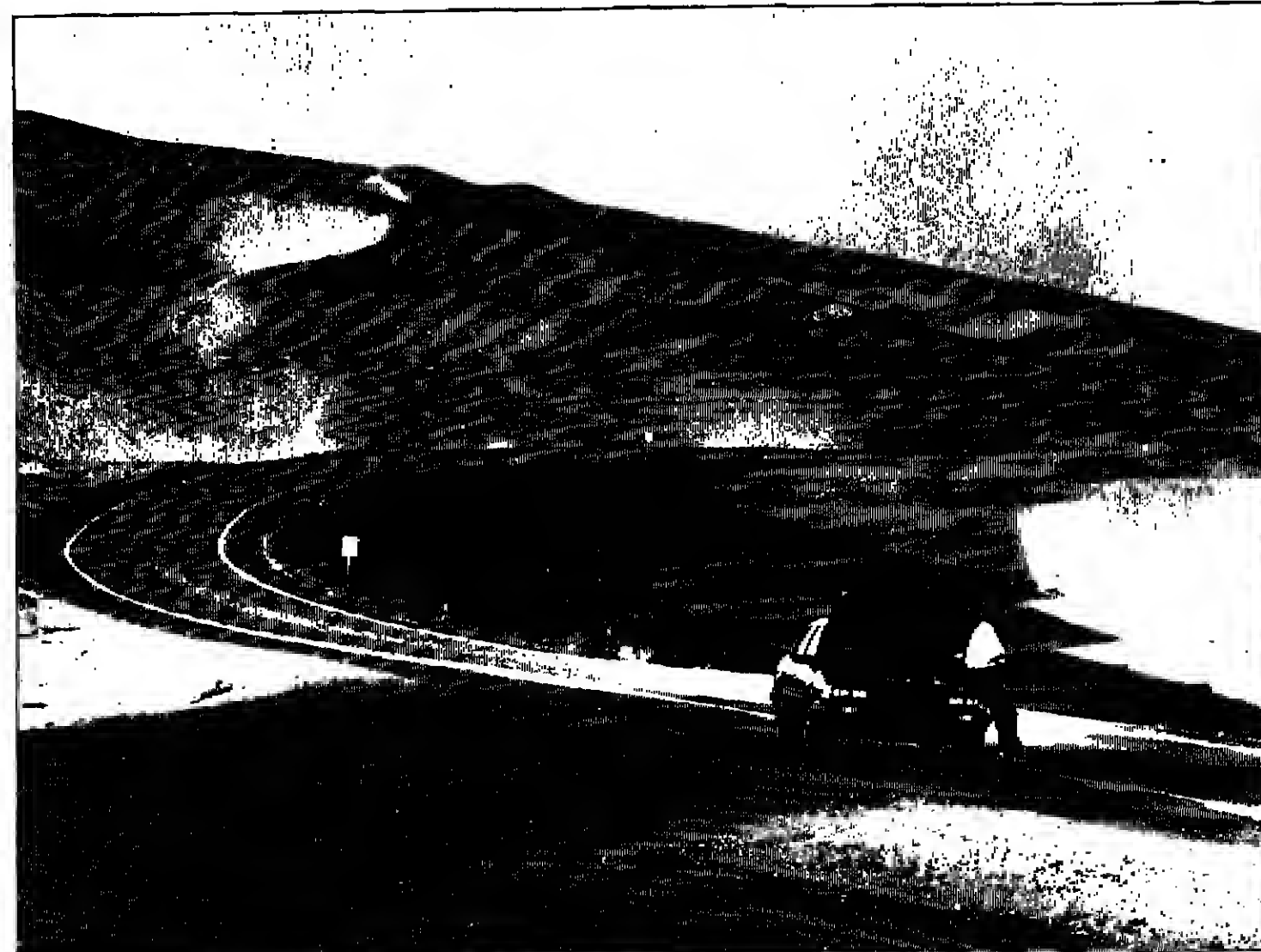
"It was also the bloodiest year: more persons were wounded in terrorist attacks than ever before

— well over 2,000 — and over 600 persons died," he said. "These increases can be explained in one word: Afghanistan."

Bremer blamed a sharp escalation of what he called "the terrorist bombing campaign in Pakistan, much of it the work of the Afghan secret police."

On the plus side, Bremer said the number of anti-US attacks fell 25 per cent. Terrorism in Latin America was down 32 per cent and has fallen by 31 per cent in Europe over the past two years.

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## KUWAIT...GULF

### Contribute organs: Rushoud

THE Director of Kuwait's Ibn Sina Hospital, Dr Rashed Al Rushoud said the Hamed Al Quannai Organ Transplant Centre has the latest medical equipment and a highly qualified staff.

The transplant unit, which opened in January, is responsible for the removal of organs from those who have agreed to donate organs upon their death, a procedure recently approved by Amiri decree.

Al Rushoud encouraged people to contribute their organs and said that it is acceptable to Islam because of humanitarian reasons. He said those who are interested in donating organs could contact the centre and complete the necessary forms.

The centre, built by the late Hamed Al Essa Al Quannai, uses the latest scientific and medical procedures in kidney transplants. Al Rushoud said.

### Unified retirement

KUWAIT'S Public Institute for Social Security will host the Gulf Cooperation Council meeting for the Unified Retirement System from March 20 to 21. The meeting will be inaugurated by the Director General of the Social Security Institute Fahed Al Rajaa.

Al Rajaa said the unification of the social security system is one of the many areas in which the GCC states are attempting to coordinate. He said the meeting will be attended by a number of specialists in civil pension and social security systems from member states in addition to a delegation representing the GCC general secretariat.

He added that the delegations will look for a unified system for GCC states which takes into account the special circumstances of each country. Delegates will also visit Kuwait's Public Institute for Social Security to see how it operates.

### Students hold rally

THE Kuwait National Students Union held a rally at its club in Khaldiya on Wednesday on the occasion of Isra and Miraj to support the popular uprising in occupied Palestine.

The chairman of the union's university branch, Mohammad Dallal, made a speech in which he hailed the "Muslims' uprising against the Israeli authorities". He condemned all attempts to drag the Muslims into concession to the Israeli occupation.

He pointed out that the rally was meant to express support and solidarity with Palestinians in their jihad against the oppressor, and he urged all Arab countries to extend further support to the children of stones.

A speaker, Dr Ahmad Nofel, said the Palestinian cause was the gravest problem in the world because it was about the destiny and right to self-determination of a whole people.

### New schedule for dentists

ACCORDING to well-informed sources Kuwait's Public Health Minister Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak has requested dental service personnel to submit a new schedule with extended hours for dentists. Sources added that the measure was taken to alleviate the long waiting periods for people seeking dental care in public health clinics.

The Head of the Dental Centre Dr Bader Al Idan, the source said, had submitted the report, including a statement of other problems being faced at dental clinics. Sources also said there were plans to expand clinics to include oral medicine and to equip nine specialised dental clinics.

The source said this was one of the minister's attempts at solving the problems that interfere with patients receiving prompt medical and dental treatment.

## 25 years of Kuwait-Soviet relations

# Ties based on mutual respect: Zverev

THE Soviet ambassador to Kuwait has said that Kuwait-Soviet relations are based on mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs of each other.

Ernest Zverev, told a press conference in Kuwait held on the 25th anniversary of establishing ties between the two countries, that the Soviet Union is greatly satisfied over the progress of relations in a relatively short period of time.

He noted that contacts between both countries' officials was made on all levels, and was crowned by messages between HH the Amir and the Soviet leadership, during the mounting of tension in the Gulf region last year.

#### Travel

Zverev said that he played a message to the Amir from Moscow during his meeting with Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday.

The Amir had sent messages last month to leaders of members of the Security Council, particularly the five permanent ones, to bring their attention to the tragic escalation of the Iraq-Iran war.

war, code-named the war of cities.

The Soviet ambassador pointed out the many meetings between Sheikh Sabah and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow and New York and also the visits by Moscow envoys to Kuwait during the past months.

He noted that though characterised by continuous progress and understanding, links between Kuwait and Moscow do not mean that the two countries have identical views toward all issues.

#### Tarbleh

Speaking on bilateral economic and commercial relations, two embassy counsellors in this regard indicated that the trade balance between the two countries started at \$2 million in 1964 and kept increasing until 1985 when Kuwait passed through a critical era. It resumed its surge, however, to reach \$7 million in 1986.

Regarding the blazing Iraq-Iran war, Zverev denied that his country wants only part of the conflict to end, by issuing a resolution calling for a halt to the shelling of cities, affirming that



Ernest Zverev

such a proposal was made for humanitarian reasons.

He stressed that Moscow does not have secret ideas or special interests, saying an insinuation of separating between the war of cities and the conflict as a whole, is western propaganda which tries to tarnish the Soviet Union's image.

The ranking Soviet diplomat said that the continuation of bombarding cities could lead to

the use of chemical warfare, affirming that a solution to end this war is everybody's interest as a prelude to end the whole conflict.

He said that his country backs UN efforts to ending the conflict, particularly the July 20 resolution 598 in this respect, centring on holding a meeting between the two belligerents.

#### Rallies

Zverev said that his country supports the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories with political and non-political means, indicating that popular rallies were organised in the Soviet Union to express solidarity with the revolt.

He added that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will visit Moscow soon and has met with the Soviet envoy Polyakov who repeated the invitation to Arafat.

On Soviet stance toward the Zionist entity, he affirmed that no change has taken place in this regard, affirming that Moscow will not restore its ties with Tel Aviv before a settlement to the Mideast crisis is reached.

Speaking of the Afghan problem and attempts to end it, Zverev stressed that a request by Pakistan on forming a coalition

government was a key cause in obstructing the way to a solution.

He noted that six years of efforts produced a comprehensive agreement based on stopping foreign intervention, repatriating Afghan refugees to their homeland, furnishing international guarantees of non-intervention and then withdrawing Soviet forces.

The Soviet diplomat said that the agreement was ready for endorsement on March 2, and a signing ceremony on March 15, adding if this process were finalised, a Soviet withdrawal would start next May 15 over the coming nine months.

Zverev emphasised that there is a connection between the Gulf war and the situation in Afghanistan, "because there is a common party in both cases, namely Iran, which plays a role in the Afghan crisis."

He said that Moscow strongly believes that any success in resolving the Afghan issue, will reflect positively on ending the Iraq-Iran war, affirming that his country will not overlook the Gulf situation, in the case of the hostilities in Afghanistan coming to a halt.

## Kuwait to host GCC theatrical festival

THE Gulf Cooperation Council's 1st theatrical festival will be held in Kuwait from March 26 to April 2 under the auspices of Kuwait's Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah.

The festival will include several plays presented by delegations from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Oman will send a cultural and artistic delegation which will participate in a seminar to be held as part of the festival's activities.

Kuwait will present the play Al Thaman (the price), directed by Fuad Al Shatti and starring Suad Hussain, Kanan Hamad, Ibra-

him Al Salal and Jassem Al Nahhan.

The festival will include several workshops organised by individual delegations and a documentary theatrical exhibition will be opened in addition to other exhibits.

The festival has been organised by the Institutes and Arts Department at Kuwait's Information Ministry in accordance with the GCC Permanent Cultural Committee. The Higher Organising Committee is headed by the Assistant Undersecretary for Culture, Press and Censorship Affairs at the ministry, Hamad Yousif Al Roumi.



● A group of students from Umm Al Haiman Secondary School for Girls visited the Seyassah newspaper offices recently as part of a school project on newspaper production and press operations. The girls, with their sponsor Badia Al Sayed Ibrahim, met with the Assistant Editor Sulaiman Al Jarallah. Some of the girls are pictured with their sponsor and the assistant editor at the Seyassah office in Shuwaikh.

## Saudi Arabia agrees to attend proposed Arab summit

SAUDI Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal has announced that the kingdom has agreed to attend the extraordinary Arab summit proposed by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to seek means of supporting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

According to reports from Riyadh the Saudi minister told reporters at the end of the 26th session of the GCC ministerial

council that "the kingdom of Saudi Arabia has agreed to attend such an Arab meeting at any time and any place."

But he said the GCC foreign ministers meeting did not collectively discuss the Algerian call for holding an Arab summit because such matters should be discussed by each Arab country individually.

Kuwait has already announced its readiness to attend such a

summit. The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

Al Faisal said that the Arab group at the United Nations is making contacts over the US decision to close down the office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the United Nations and has urged the UN General Assembly to hold a meeting to discuss this matter.

The just concluded GCC foreign ministers meeting has discussed the latest development in the Gulf region in the light of the recent escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

#### Intensify

The foreign ministers decided at the meeting that the GCC member states would continue to support the Palestinian uprising in all fields.

They also decided to intensify international contacts especially with the permanent members of the UN Security Council for the implementation of the Security Council resolution 598 on halting the Gulf war.

The Saudi foreign minister expressed optimism over the reactions of the permanent members of the UN Security Council on GCC efforts for ending Iran-Iraq war and expressed hope that the UN Security Council would issue an executive resolution to help end the war.

Farraj was arrested on March 8, after giving himself up to policemen and is under investigation by authorities.

## Documentary on Kuwaiti society

A MEMBER of Kuwait's Sociologists Society Abdullah Ghuloum said the society will prepare a documentary on Kuwaiti society from the 1920s to the end of this century. He added that this comprehensive project would be conducted in cooperation with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science.

This work will provide a documented and scientific reference of the Kuwaiti society for future generations, he said, adding that it was the first of its kind about the Kuwaiti community.

Ghuloum said the society has organised a number of lectures for society members and the public which include: "An outline of Kuwait's economic history" by Dr Ghulam Al Najjar from Kuwait University on Sunday, March 20; "The social effects of oil" by Dr Abdul Rasoul Al Musa from Kuwait University on Tuesday, March 22; "The family in an oil society" by Dr Abdul Raouf Al Jarawi from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and Dr Ali Al

## Rasheedi dies of gunshot wound

HAZZA Munawer Al Rasheedi died on Thursday in Farwaniya Hospital from a gunshot wound to the head.

Al Rasheedi was shot one week ago by a Kuwaiti Farraj Nasser Farraj who went on a shooting spree, holding several members of his family hostage in the Firdous area.

The hospital had called in a British physician from the UK to treat the victim, but because of damage done to the brain, the physician said surgery would be useless.

Farraj was arrested on March 8, after giving himself up to policemen and is under investigation by authorities.

## \$2m EEC aid for Lebanon

BEIRUT, March 18, (Kuna): Kuwait has sent more than \$10 million worth of medicine, food and school equipments to Lebanon in response to Lebanese acting Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss's call for help to implement a social programme for schools.

The European Economic Community will also extend more than \$2 million of material assistance, an EEC official said in Beirut.

The head of EEC commission, Arn Beek Nilson, following his meeting with Hoss, told reporters that their talks tackled cooperation between the EEC and Lebanon to implement the programme for schools.

On the other hand, Lebanese Interior Minister Abdullah Al Rassisi estimated the cost of reconstructing Palestinian refugee camps at about \$50 million.

Dr Al Rassisi held a meeting here last night with reconstructing refugees camps and their surrounding committee called on Arab countries and humanitarian organisations to help finance the reconstruction programme.

## Prices of portable telephones soar

KUWAIT'S Mobile Telephone Company recently stopped accepting applications for telephone services in order to improve the sale of other new devices, according to a local newspaper.

It said this caused a sharp rise in the price of portable telephones, the price reaching KD3.000 in some cases.

A number of people told the newspaper that the new devices were inferior to the old ones and the reception was weaker.

#### Intervene

They called on the company to find a solution quickly in order not to lose the trust of customers.

They called on the Communications Ministry as well as the

Commerce and Industry Ministry to intervene in the matter, and added that it would be better if these ministries gave other companies the right to sell portable telephones. They pointed out that this would prevent a monopoly and improve market prices.

#### Unwilling

One person, Mohammed Saad Iyada, said the company's decision was wrong.

He said the company aimed at increasing the annual subscription in spite of bad service. He called on the company to reconsider the matter before taking any other decisions.

Muhain Ashkanani said the

## ROYAL COURT

### Amiri cable

HH the Amir sent a cable of congratulations to Ireland's President on the occasion of his country's National Day.

### Crown Prince cable

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of Ireland, Charles Haughey on the occasion of his country's National Day.

## GULF PRESS

### GCC objectives highlighted

SAUDI papers on Thursday commented on the meetings of the GCC ministerial council in Riyadh and highlighted the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its noble objectives which came to realise the hopes of the people of the region and the aspirations of the Arab and Muslim people and supporting their just causes.

Jeddah based *Olay*, said one of the main goals of the GCC is to establish peace, security and welfare for the peoples of the region and to build a sound and constructive cooperation basis between the member states and dedicating Gulf cooperation between them and various military, security, political, social and economic aspects.

The daily said the 26th session of the GCC ministerial council was held amid important developments being witnessed by the region that necessitate close cooperation and coordination and joint efforts for supporting decisive causes, the most important of which was the Iran-Iraq war and efforts underway for ending the war.

Al Madinah said editorially that the session comes as part of the advanced stages in the Arab joint action for developing a joint cooperation towards causes and problems facing the region.

The daily stressed that Riyadh's meeting was aimed at implementing the wise directives of GCC leaders and their efforts for implementing the UN Security Council's resolution No. 598 which calls for ending the Iran-Iraq war.

Riyadh based daily, *Al Gazzrah*, spoke on the unanimity of Muslim scholars who view Khomeini and his followers as impious and regard them as unbelievers because of their clear deviation from the teachings of Islam, their immoral behaviour and their hostile acts against Islam and Muslims.

The daily recalled what has been said by the kingdom that it always welcomes any Muslim from any place who comes for performing the haj rites, if that pilgrim comes with sincere belief to perform haj away from any secular or political intention.

Jeddah based *Al Bilad* and *Makkah* based *Al Nadwah* called for an immediate end to the Iran-Iraq war and stopping the affluence of Muslim material and human energies.

While highlighting the Iraqi positive position towards resolution 598 for ending the war and all peaceful initiatives, the two dailies condemned Iran's repeated efforts to ignore the Security Council resolution for ending the war.

## 120 private schools in Kuwait

DR Yaqub Al Sharrar, the Assistant Undersecretary for Kuwait's Private Education Department, said the ministry established a maximum tuition for private schools. He added that schools were free to charge less than the established tuition as some did in the case of students who came from families who were in financial need.

He said the government paid 50 per cent of the tuition for children attending private Arabic schools, adding that registration was similar in both the private and public education sectors.

Al Sharrar said there were 120 Arabic and foreign private schools in Kuwait and 75 private institutes. There are 150

thousand students attending private education programmes, he said. He added that thirty thousand students attend institutes, which offer courses in administrative, scientific, secretarial, work computer science and electronics.

Foreign schools which operate under a system different from that followed by public and private schools are placed under direct ministry supervision, he said, adding that the ministry continually seeks to hire the best-qualified teachers for all schools.

Al Sharrar said the department was studying current problems in the private education sector in an attempt to find effective solutions and to upgrade private education.

## 150 trailer trucks enter Kuwait daily

THE Director of Kuwait's Land Customs Department Saleh Al Shaya said that an average of 150 trailer trucks enter the country daily, loaded with various foodstuffs for the Shuwaikh vegetable market and Sulaybiya area.

Most of the trucks come from Eastern and European countries, Turkey.

Arab and Gulf Cooperation Council states, he said, adding that foodstuffs imported to Kuwait are inspected for radiation contamination and returned to the country of origin if radiation is detected.

Al Shaya said that inspectors are provided with information about the latest smuggling methods and take their work quite seriously.

He added that a local consultant office is studying the possibility of the establishment of customs centres at additional land border points, which will be constructed in cooperation with the public and private sectors.

## 856 labourers injured in accidents

ACCORDING to a recent report issued by Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, 856 labourers were injured in work-related accidents in the Hawalli Governorate last year. Six of this number died from injuries sustained, 341 suffered from partial disability and 509 were completely disabled, losing their jobs as a result of the injuries.

The report stated that casualties in the Hawalli Governorate ranged between 9 and 10 injuries per thousand workers. A total of 34,868 work days were lost as a result of casualties last year and the government incurred about KD160,609 for medical expenses of the total cost of about KD803,000.

Insurance companies paid KD36,000 in life insurance, KD52,924 in disability insurance and KD29,513 in medical insurance, the report stated.

## Pirzada in Amman preparing for Islamic foreign ministers meeting

AMMAN, March 18, (Xinbua). The 17th conference of foreign ministers of Islamic countries will be convened in delicate circumstances faced by the Islamic nations. Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Sherifuddin Pirzada said today.

Pirzada made these statements upon his arrival here at the head of an OIC secretariat delegation to make preparations for the conference which will start next Monday.

The OIC chief stressed that the Islamic nations now badly need to settle their differences and unite their views.

Pirzada denounced the Israeli suppression against the Palestinian people in the occupied

territories, confirming that the Amman meeting would consider the ways of ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and supporting their uprising.

#### Agenda

The Palestine issue, the Middle East problem and the status of the holy Jerusalem will be the main topics to be discussed by the foreign ministers, he said. The conference agenda involves 78 items, including the Iran-Iraq war. The seven and half-year-old war which has escalated recently makes it incumbent upon the Islamic nations to hasten to find a fair and honourable settlement, Pirzada stressed.

The conference will review the situation in Afghanistan and the

UN-sponsored talks with the aim of reaching a political solution. The Secretary-General said.

It will also consider how to help the people of South Africa regain their rights and do away with racial discrimination, he added.

**Terrorism**  
Among the other items on the agenda are international terrorism, the issue of Muslims in southern Philippines and the conditions of the Muslims in a number of non-OIC member countries, Pirzada said.

Pirzada expressed confidence that foreign ministers of Islamic countries will shoulder their responsibility and will take a unified Islamic stand to meet the challenges faced by the Islamic nations.

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## Bangladesh Association polls results



Tajul Hassan. Moazzuddin Ahmed.

A. S. Tajul Hassan was elected president of the Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, at the polls conducted last week at the premises of the Bangladesh Embassy in Jab-ya. He received 4,724 votes.

Moazzuddin Ahmed was voted the general secretary of the association. Ahmed won with 4,702 votes. A total of 9,244 voters turned out for the election.

There were four candidates for the presidency. The other three candidates were: Mohammad Amanullah (2,410 votes), Shahidur Rahman (1,113 votes) and Aminur Rashid (831 votes).

The Bangladesh Association represents over 52,000 Bangladeshis residing in Kuwait. Their main goal is to arrange cultural programmes, celebrate all Bangladesh festivals and help labourers and others.

Hassan said he plans to organise separate committees to look after Bangladeshis living in different areas in Kuwait.

A total of 27 executive members of the association were chosen at the polls, which were fair and held peacefully under the supervision of an election commission and Bangladesh embassy officials.

Other officials of the committee are Zakir Hussain Dulal — senior vice president; Mohammad Hassan — vice president; Fajiruddin Khan — assistant general secretary; Mohammad Yusuf — organisation secretary; Moazzuddin Shamsur Ali — education and cultural secretary; Mohammad Hafiz — social welfare secretary; Qamruddin Hasan — sports secretary; Mohammad Solaiman — publicity secretary; Mohammad Mokmar Ali — office secretary; Sheikh Azharul Islam — treasurer and 'Emdadul Kabir' — publication and library secretary.

Alawi in Cairo

CAIRO, March 18, (Kuna): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday received the Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousif Bin Alawi Abdullah.

The meeting was attended by Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid and Omani's Foreign Undersecretary Haitham Bin Tariq Al Saeed, the Middle East News Agency (Mena) reported.

Municipality demolishing trees, shrubs

CITIZENS of the Dhahar area are complaining that Kuwait Municipality demolished trees and shrubs they had carefully planted in the area. Citizens said the Municipality did not even give any notice or warning that such action was to be taken.

Citizens of Dhahar planted trees, shrubs and grass around their government houses in an attempt to make their area more attractive. They were even encouraged and supported by the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources.

They said the Municipality removed the trees and plants although citizens had been asked to help beautify and help in the "greening of Kuwait".

A lot of time, money and beauty wasted. The Municipality cut down the trees without giving any notice to the residents.

Prince Saud, Genscher hold talks on GCC-EEC cooperation accord

## Prince Saud, Genscher hold talks on GCC-EEC cooperation accord

BONN, March 18, (Kuna): Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal today held the third round of talks in 24 hours with his West German counterpart Hans Dietrich Genscher as the two sides tried to finalise an agreement that would strengthen economic cooperation between the European Economic Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In the morning session, Genscher and Prince Saud voiced satisfaction with the progress of talks between the two economic groups, the EEC and the GCC, and hoped the agreement would be signed in the near future, an official German spokesman said after the meeting.

The Saudi minister, whose country is current chairman of

the GCC, arrived here Thursday and had political talks with Genscher and Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the latest flare-up of the Gulf war and the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

**Final draft**  
On Thursday too, German and Saudi economists met in a joint commission to review the final draft of the economic agreement. West Germany is now presiding over the 12-nation European Economic Community.

EEC and GCC officials are expected to meet at a larger scale in Brussels soon to work out the final details of the accord.

Boon hopes the agreement would be signed before Germany's EEC chairmanship

comes to an end in June.

The six GCC countries: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates hope the agreement would take their products into the European markets and give them a fairer share of the two-way trade between the two sides.

**Worry**  
On the political side of the German-Saudi talks, the Bonn government reaffirmed its willingness to back efforts aimed at halting the Iran-Iraq war on basis of Security Council resolution 598, according to an official statement issued Thursday after Prince Saud conferred with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The Chancellor also indicated that West Germany was supportive of an international con-

ference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, the statement added.

The Saudi minister told Kohl the Iran-Iraq war continued to be the GCC's major worry and that GCC members were seeking an immediate implementation of resolution 598 which called for a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

In a reported interview with Radio Cologne Prince Saud said the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories has shattered the Zionist state and democracy.

He hoped the international community would eventually realise that recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination was a key pillar of any Middle East settlement.

## Sheikh Zayed, Mubarak talks bring Egypt and UAE closer

CAIRO, March 18, (Reuters): The President of Egypt paid his United Arab Emirates counterpart the rare honour of travelling with him on private visits in Egypt yesterday.

It seemed to be Hosni Mubarak's way of thanking Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose country was the first of 11 Arab states to restore ties with Egypt last year after an eight-year break.

Their journey together to the Sinai town of Sharm El Sheikh also appeared to point to fruitful future relations.

Long talks between Sheikh Zayed and Mubarak during an official visit which ended on Wednesday produced prospects of closer partnership in arms production and in tackling Arab problems, Arab diplomats said.

**Freed**  
Sheikh Zayed on his first trip to Egypt in a decade, made no secret of his support for Mubarak.

An Arab League summit in Amman last November freed member states to restore relations collectively severed after

Egypt's peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

"The isolation of Egypt from the rest of the Arabs has left the Arab world at a loss," Sheikh Zayed said in an interview with Cairo's weekly Al-Mussawwar last week.

The UAE President said the US-backed Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel which led to the peace treaty was a natural result of successive wars.

"Every war ends with peace ... no war lasts forever, as long as peace restores my land and rights," he said.

**Frozen**  
Sheikh Zayed also supports Egypt's return to the Arab League, from which it was suspended. "Egypt does not need the League, it is the Arabs who need Egypt in the League," he said.

Arab diplomat said that despite a shift in Egypt's favour in the Arab world, its return to the League was impossible in the absence of agreement by all members — including hardliners Syria and Libya.

A source in the UAE delega-

tion confirmed that the emirates had returned to a joint arms production scheme in Egypt. It was owned by Egypt, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar until 1979 when its operations were frozen as a result of the peace treaty.

"No other Arab country is as qualified as Egypt in arms production," Sheikh Zayed said when asked if the UAE planned to return to the Arab organisation for industrialisation (AOI). Lieutenant-General Ibrahim Orabi, head of the AOI, told reporters on Wednesday: "The UAE was and still is a member of the organisation."

Sheikh Zayed said during his Cairo visit that Egypt's military strength was a great asset to the Gulf states.

Arab diplomats said this reflected a major theme of the Arab restoration of ties — that Egypt could offer military support to Gulf states if they were threatened by Iran in its war with Iraq.

**Saudi Arabia reports first AIDS cases**

RIYADH, March 18, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia yesterday reported its first AIDS cases, saying seven of the 18 people who had contracted the virus had died.

The kingdom, which screens all foreign workers for AIDS before allowing them to enter the country, had not previously disclosed any cases.

But a Health Ministry official told a seminar here nine Saudi nationals and nine foreigners had contracted the virus, which destroys the body's ability to fight diseases, and seven had died.

**Iran to attend OIC meeting**

AMMAN, March 18, (Reuters): Iran yesterday confirmed it would send a delegation to the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

OIC foreign ministers' meeting is scheduled to open in Amman on Monday, a political source said.

With the exception of Iran, all foreign ministers of OIC's 45-member countries would attend the five-day session and senior Iranian Foreign Ministry officials would stand in for Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, the source said.

**Moscow talks**

MOSCOW, (Kuna): Official talks between a delegation of the Arab League's seven-member committee on the Palestinian popular uprising and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze open here.

journalists and the relatives of 34 Lankan women sent back by Japan.

The women were recruited to be trained in Japan to subsequently work in a joint-venture garment manufacturing factory in Sri Lanka.

But the Japanese media last month exposed the plight of these women saying they were being made to work like "slaves".

The Japanese government promptly stepped in and refused to extend the visas of these women who were sent back on Wednesday.

Japanese government leaders feared the scandal would even strain relations between the two countries.

When the women landed at Colombo international airport reporters and photographers

## Students union to hold annual party

LONDON, March 18, (Kuna): The National Union for Kuwait's Students Union-United Kingdom and Ireland branch — will host its final annual party here Saturday under the patronage of Kuwaiti Ambassador to Britain Ghazi Al Rayess.

During the one-day festivities, which will be sponsored by the Kuwaiti cultural office here, a number of lectures will be delivered and cultural competitions will be organised. There will also be a dinner banquet.

The Kuwaiti Cultural Attache Ahmed Al Dwaissan said that he and Ambassador Al Rayess will award prizes to 13 outstanding students on scholarships from the Ministry of Education for the year 1987.

He added, in a statement to Kuna, that he held a meeting with 70 Kuwait students in Dublin, Ireland, last week, which coincided with recent celebrations of Kuwait's 27th National Day.

Al Dwaissan noted that nearly 450 students study in the UK, Ireland and Sweden, who are sponsored by the office here.

**Five tankers hit in Gulf**

(Continued from Page 1)  
taken to hospital.

Iraq said its planes hit two naval targets — its term for tankers or cargo ships — just after midnight in the Gulf.

Lloyd's shipping intelligence said later the 80,137-tonne Cyprus tanker Kymikos was set on fire in an Iraqi attack.

The crew, some of whom were slightly hurt, abandoned the fully-laden vessel and the fire was later extinguished, Lloyd's said.

Regional shipping sources said they had reports that a ship was ablaze off the Iranian port of Bushehr, south of Kharg Island. They were unable to identify it or get more details.

Iraq brought the battle back to the waterway on Tuesday when its planes hit the Greek-owned shuttle tanker Trade Fortitude, one of a fleet handling Iran's oil exports.

Baghdad's previous confirmed attack was on Feb 15 when its jets killed four crewmen on the Iranian supply ship Soleiman.

Before today's blitz, Iran's last attack was on Feb 11 when gunboats set the Norwegian super-tanker Happy Kari ablaze.

**Three arrested**

THREE men identified as Hamdan K. Mohammed A. and Bashir M. were arrested yesterday by detectives of the Jaha Governorate for possession of about half a million narcotic capsules, which were being sold by the men.

The defendants pleaded guilty and were turned over to authorities for further investigation.

**Sri Lanka to sign labour accord with S. Arabia, UAE**

COLOMBO, March 18, (Kuna): Sri Lanka plans to sign two labour related agreements with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates regarding Sri Lankan expatriates, working in these two countries, according to official sources here.

The sources at the state-run Foreign Employment Bureau said preliminary discussions on the two agreements have been held between the bureau, the Foreign Ministry and the Labour Ministry, and officials in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates.

Basically these agreements will help provide legal cover for workers' rights such as salaries, terms of employment, personal security and other matters relating to worker welfare.

Meanwhile, fistbuffs broke out on Wednesday between local



Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal meets with West German counterpart Hans Dietrich Genscher (right) at the Cologne airport upon his arrival in West Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Book on bedouin heritage to be published next month

A MAIDEN pictorial book scientifically documenting the old bedouin heritage with a special emphasis on traditional weaving, locally known as Sadu, will be published next month, according to the director of Sadu House, Sheikh Alia Salem Alali.

She pointed out that officials at the house first contemplated the book, bearing the title "technical methods of bedouin weaving," in 1985 with the aim of documenting Sadu through scientific studies.

In an exclusive interview with Kuna, she indicated that the book is "the first advanced scientific step towards recording the main features of ancient bedouin heritage and Sadu weaving."

**Studies**  
The director explained that prior to "the discovery" of oil, bedouins in the Kuwaiti desert made great use of Sadu to cope with the harsh environment.

She added that Sadu wool products served as homes and

mats for the bedouins, clothes, and food protection during long journeys in search of water and pasture.

Sheikha Alia stressed that the book would be followed by a series of scientific studies tackling many aspects of Sadu such as methods of weaving, the choice of colours and their impact on inscriptions in the woven articles.

She noted that these varied among tribes as a result of the environmental circumstances around each.

**Similarity**  
The book has been put together by an instructor of weaving at Sadu House in Kuwait, Rona Krayton, a graduate of the Scottish Weaving Institute who has done extensive study of Sadu techniques and methods.

Sheikha Alia pointed out that the book project was supervised by a committee comprising herself and two other Kuwaiti nationals keen on preserving the national heritage to prevent its disappearance.

A striking discovery, the director noted, was the close similarity between the Sadu inscriptions used by Kuwaiti weavers and those produced by American red Indians, and other tribes in Africa and Mexico.

**Proves**  
This, she went on, proves that traditional weaving anywhere was a simple practice to meet mankind's basic needs of clothing and habitation.

For her part, the author of the book, Rona Krayton, told Kuna that in preparing the book she relied on witnessing the group of female bedouin weavers at Sadu House.

She pointed out a desire to undertake a comparative study on Sadu in Kuwait and other Arab countries, also using scientific methodology.

The book was translated into Arabic by Dr Aazza Karara, former professor of English literature at Alexandria University.

## Iran captures two Iraqi towns

(Continued from Page 1)

sector. Both were seen falling in flames in Iranian territory, he added.

Iraqi planes launched heavy raids against at least six Iranian towns during the day.

A high command communiqué later acknowledged the loss of one plane. Iran claimed five Iraqi jets were downed.

A Baghdad military spokesman said two Iranian planes bombed Shiraz in southern Iran, Zanjan in the north and Dezful, Andimeshk and Bakhtaran in the west, causing civilian casualties.

Iran reported Iranian fighter-bombers attacked Iraqi troop concentrations and other military targets in the northeast. It said all returned safely to base.

**Unable**  
Military analysts believe the Iranians, unable to match Iraq's superior firepower, launched the ground offensive.

Both sides have ignored an appeal by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for a ceasefire in the "war of the cities."

In Istanbul, two newspapers reported that Premier Turgut Ozal said Turkey has closed its airspace to all military flights by airplanes from Iran or Iraq, both neighbours of Turkey.

## 17th escort completed

WASHINGTON, March 18, (UPI): US naval forces completed their 17th escort of re-registered Kuwaiti tankers of 1988 yesterday when the Gas Prince arrived off Kuwait, the US Central Command's Middle East Task Force reported.

The tanker, which started its passage up the war-torn Gulf March 14, was escorted by the guided missile frigate USS Simpson. The task force reported there was no unusual air or sea activity during the passage.

Eleven Kuwait tankers came under the protection of Navy warships last July following Kuwait's request to re-register their ships under the US flag. Their shipping had come under attack from Iran because of Kuwait's assistance to Iraq in the long-running war between the two Gulf nations.

**Industrial planning programme**

DIRECTOR of the Kuwait-based Arab Planning Institute Abdullah Mohammed Ali today inaugurates the industrial planning programme.

The three-week long programme will examine industrial planning and policies, technical means used in this field and project evaluation.

The gathering will include 28 participants from 12 Arab countries.



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## EDITORIALS

## ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WOE unto them that are tired of everything, for everything will certainly be tired of them — G.K. Chesterton, English writer (1874-1936).

## Iran-Contra scandal

## A tangle of deceptions

By Robert Kearns

WASHINGTON (Reuter): Iran and Nicaragua, dubbed by Congressional investigators "the twin thrums of US foreign policy in the 1980s," handed President Reagan his gravest crisis.

The November 1986 disclosure, in the Lebanese weekly Al Shiraa, that Reagan's aides had sold arms to Iran shocked the world and led investigators to uncover a series of bizarre foreign escapades known as the Iran-Contra scandal.

The scandal jolted allies who thought Reagan was leading an anti-terrorist arms boycott against Iran.

It soured his relations with Congress, ruined his reputation as a "Teflon" (non-stick) president, immune to scandal, and helped bleed away what little political clout he had left in his last year in office.

Now it will lead to trials and possibly to jail terms for former aides who thought they were carrying out his wishes.

A grand jury in Washington on Wednesday indicted former National Security Adviser John Poindexter, his one-time aide Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North and two of North's associates — former Air Force General Richard Secord and Iranian-born businessman Albert Hakim — on criminal charges related to the scandal.

Disbelief At first there was widespread American disbelief of reports that the United States had been selling arms to Iran, an arch enemy which had held 52 Americans hostage from 1979-81 and which is at war with Iraq.

Three weeks after the first arms-sale report on Nov. 25, Attorney General Edwin Meese dropped another bombshell by announcing he had discovered that proceeds from the sales had been secretly diverted to buy supplies for Nicaragua's Contra rebels.

That raised questions of possible misuse of US funds and violation of laws forbidding official US aid to the Contras from October 1984 to October 1986.

Poindexter resigned as National Security Adviser. North, his deputy on the National Security Council (NSC), was fired.

Two sets of investigations, one by a presidential commission headed by former Texas Senator

John Tower and the other by a joint committee of Congress, have since sketched out the main lines of the Iran-Contra operations.

A third, under special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, began a confidential inquiry into criminal charges that led to the indictments announced on Wednesday.

The televised congressional effort included testimony from the principal participants from May to August 1987. Most of them talked under grants of limited immunity, meaning Walsh needed independent evidence to try them.

In general, the public investigations found that the White House had secretly decided in 1985, against the wishes of Secretary of State George Shultz and then-Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger, to allow the sales of US arms to Iran despite an official embargo on such sales.

The sales were at first handled by Israel with US approval.

Sales Later the United States took over the sales directly in an Operation Run, without notification to Congress, by North and Poindexter from the NSC staff offices.

The original rationale for the operation was set forth by Poindexter's NSC predecessor, Robert McFarlane, who proposed them as "a strategic opening to moderate elements" in Iran.

McFarlane, who tried to commit suicide in remorse over his role in the affair, pleaded guilty last week to charges of misleading Congress.

Both the Tower and Congressional investigations said the sales quickly degenerated into attempts to swap arms for American hostages held by pro-Iranian factions in Lebanon.

Although three Americans were released during the 15-month period of the secret arms sales, three more were seized and a total of nine Americans are still held in Lebanon to this day.

A related second line of clandestine operation opened when North, who was overseeing a general secret effort to keep the Contras supplied during the congressional aid ban, decided in 1986 to divert some profits from the arms sales into purchasing supplies for the Nicaraguan rebels.

That raised questions of possible misuse of US funds and violation of laws forbidding official US aid to the Contras from October 1984 to October 1986.

Poindexter resigned as National Security Adviser. North, his deputy on the National Security Council (NSC), was fired.

Two sets of investigations, one by a presidential commission headed by former Texas Senator

## 'In' and 'out' in name game

By Joe Patrick Bean

WASHINGTON: According to a probably apocryphal story making the rounds almost two years ago, some residents of the small central Texas city of San Marcos were talking about renaming their town San Aquino in the aftermath of the Filipino "People Power" movement that deposed President Ferdinand Marcos and installed President Corason Aquino.

Two years later, no doubt much to the relief of the United States Postal Service, San Marcos is still San Marcos.

Lost Lennid Brezhnev, the late Soviet general secretary, recently met with a different fate. Motivated by current General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's press for glasnost — which recognises, to some degree, errors committed by previous Soviet leaders — authorities in that nation removed Brezhnev's name from a large city. The city, about 500 miles east of Moscow, will once again be known by its former name, Naberezhnye Chelny (which means Dugout Canoe on the Shore).

Gorbachev is not the first Russian leader to remove a predecessor's name from a city. After the death of Josef Stalin in 1953 and Nikita Khrushchev's subsequent denunciation of the late dictator in 1956, Stalin's name was removed from a city in the Volga Basin, Stalingrad, the site of one of World War II's most protracted and costliest battles (partly because Adolf Hitler felt compelled to capture the city named for his arch-enemy), became Volgograd.

Czar Peter I, better known as Peter the Great, lost "his" city in 1924. After the death of Lenin,

his successors gave the name Leningrad to the country's former imperial capital; Petrograd was no more.

Today's Soviet "namesman-ship" resembles a game of musical chairs, reflecting who is "in" and who is "out" in the current official Soviet pantheon of heroes. Gorbachev seems to be increasing the game's tempo.

Brezhnev is, apparently, on the way out — though not entirely, at least not yet. Stalin probably is not on the way back in, but Nikolai Bukharin, the theoretician of the Bolshevik Revolution, who was executed as a spy by Stalin in 1938, may be.

Khrushchev, deposed in 1964, currently appears to be in the netherworld between being in and out, but Leon Trotsky, the founder of the Red Army, who was kicked out of the Soviet Union in 1929 and assassinated in Mexico in 1940, probably oo Stalin's orders, is still out.

As frustrating as all this may eventually prove for Soviet mail carriers, it must be equally confusing for the Russians and others in Eastern Europe who wish to make sense of their nation's histories.

A Polish example illustrates the limits of glasnost as it applies to history. Last fall, marking the 48th anniversary of the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact and subsequent dismemberment of Poland by Germany and the USSR, the Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski wrote an article for Kommunist, the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee's journal.

Jaruzelski's article, however, omitted all mention of the infamous Katyn Forest massacre.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

## Palestinians held without trial

## Israel using detentions to end uprising

By Nicolas B. Tatro

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip, (AP): Assad Saftawi is a 53-year-old pharmacist who joined the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood as a youth in Egypt and later served four years in an Israeli jail for PLO activities.

At midnight last Sunday, five soldiers entered his stone house on a dirt side street of Gaza City's Sabra district and arrested Saftawi, according to his eldest son, Alaa, 25.

## Leadership

Saftawi joined a growing list of Palestinians ordered held without trial for up to six months. Authorities are using such administrative detentions, which do not require the filing of specific charges, with increasing frequency to break a rebellion in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Army said there were 212 such administrative detentions between Dec 8, when the current

unrest began, and Feb. 26. An Arab-run human rights group, Law in the Service of Man, puts the number at 232 through March 13, compared with 193 in all of last year.

"It is used as an attempt to take out any potential leadership the community might have," said Faiah Azem, a member of the group based in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

"It is a method of punishment for people who are active and not necessarily illegally active."

The Army confirmed Saftawi had been placed in administrative detention, but a spokesman declined to specify what he had done.

Orders for administrative detention can be issued by area military commanders. Appeals can be made to a military appeals council, and ultimately to Israel's supreme court.

But Palestinian attorney Jonathan Kuttab, who frequently represents activists, asserts the appeals council is a "meaningless exercise" because charges are not

detailed and evidence, if any, is kept secret from the defense.

Among other prominent Palestinians who have been placed under administrative detention are Nabil Jabary, a 43-year-old occupied Jerusalem dentist and chairman of the board of trustees at Hebrew University, Jabary's wife, Carol, said he was detained March 10.

"The whole community is shocked. This is ridiculous. He is a moderate and the only thing he tried to do was to help people have a decent life," she said.

## Detained

Also detained this month was Bassam Sayeh, the son of Sheikh Abdel Hamid Al Sayeh, chairman of the Palestinian National Council, which is the parliament of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. He is from occupied Jerusalem and works at Mukassas Hospital as an accountant.

Saftawi, a squarish man who favours the long galabiyah robe worn in Egypt, is an ardent nationalist who was outspoken

in his criticism of Israel's occupation in an interview a few days before his arrest.

As another son served hot tea in glasses and strong, sweet coffee in tiny blue cups, Saftawi spoke with pride about his second son, Imad, who belonged to the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad.

Imad, 24, became a local hero in Gaza after breaking out of jail and escaping abroad last year. Saftawi credits his son and a small band of a dozen friends with setting the stage for the uprising.

"By their actions and their success, they gave confidence to the Palestinian people to depend on themselves, to be self-sufficient," said Saftawi.

## Passive

Saftawi, who also is headmaster of a United Nations-run elementary school in the Bureij refugee camp, contrasted the "can-do" spirit of the youth with the passive mood of the older generation.

"We were deceived, believing that the Arabs, or Islam, or the United Nations would do something for us. But this group made people believe we could depend on ourselves. They planted the seed of something new."

A maverick, Saftawi is candid in his criticism of the PLO, which he says encouraged Palestinians to wait for deliverance from the outside.

## Faction

"There is no doubt that the PLO's original leadership belongs to the older generation and was captive to old ideas, especially the idea that we as Palestinian people were unable to do anything," he said.

The comments were in part self-criticism because Saftawi, by his own account, has had a long-standing relationship with the PLO.

Saftawi's ties with the PLO date to the mid-1950s in Cairo, when he belonged to the Muslim Brotherhood, a fundamentalist group founded by Hassan Al

Banna in 1929.

But when Egyptian authorities cracked down in 1955, Saftawi and fellow student activists like Yasser Arafat and Salah Khalaf, now the top leaders of the PLO, decided to form a new faction.

The group, which formed the nucleus of what would become Arafat's Fatah commandos, launched cross-border operations against Israel. Saftawi said he never took part in any such attempts.

In 1973, six years after Gaza was captured by Israel, Saftawi was arrested and convicted of handling PLO money. He spent four years in jail.

Saftawi, the father of six sons and three daughters, recalls that Imad was only nine years old at the time and took on responsibility for feeding the family by working odd jobs.

"He became the breadwinner for the whole family and took care of my parents," recalled Saftawi. "If I count the hours I saw my son while I was in jail it was not more than 10."



## Turks in Bulgaria are an oppressed lot

By William Echikson

PLOVDIV, Bulgaria: A policeman blocked the road.

The Rhodope Mountains, home to many of Bulgaria's estimated 800,000 ethnic Turks, loomed ahead, visible on the horizon. Officially, the region is open to visitors. But this policeman didn't care.

"Forbidden," he said strictly. "You need authorization to go there."

And so, with the wave of a policeman's baton, the fate of Bulgaria's Turkish minority stayed shrouded in secrecy for this reporter.

Despite repeated requests, Amnesty International and other Western human rights organizations have also been denied permission to visit the region.

Bulgarian officials say that they permitted three United States senators and some Islamic groups to enter on organized tours. But according to one human rights activist, the visitors are "heavily watched, taken to the same mosques, and introduced to the same few Turks who say everything is OK."

Unfortunately, the little available evidence suggests that little OK. In the winter of 1984-85, Bulgarian authorities forced these Turks, about one-tenth of the country's population, to

change their names to ones of "pure" Slavic derivation. Suddenly, all Mehmetes became Mekhais, all Ismailis turned into Ivans.

Those who refused were crushed. The Bulgarians deny force was used. But reports by the Amnesty International human rights group spoke of widespread demonstrations, forcible resettlements, entire villages surrounded by tanks and helicopters, and more than 100 deaths. Three years later, the issue remains taboo, even though Bulgarian authorities preach the virtues of glasnost (openness). There is no Turkish minority in Bulgaria, officials insist. "Bulgarian citizens voluntarily and spontaneously" changed their names and "rediscovered" their true Slavic identity.

Elsewhere in the Soviet bloc, independent groups are active in fighting human rights abuses. In Bulgaria, no one dares defend their fellow Turkish citizens.

"The subject inspires fear," says one Western resident. No one talks about it.

But Bulgarians cannot make the problem disappear. Turkey puts forward human rights complaints at the Security and Cooperation Conference in Vienna, and the issue was prominent at the recent Balkans Conference in Belgrade.

Large-scale emigration is the Turkish goal. Bulgaria refuses to

allow it. The authorities only consider requests for family unification when both parents already are in Turkey and the child is under 16. As a goodwill gesture, Bulgaria signed a protocol of good neighbourly relations with Turkey at the Balkan conference and allowed 10 Muslim children to join their families recently.

The Bulgarians have allowed 66 children to join their parents, but "hundreds of thousands want to leave," says one Turkish official.

Animosity between Turks and Bulgarians goes back some 600 years to when the Ottoman Empire absorbed the tiny Balkan state. Turkish rule was not famed for its gentleness. After Bulgaria won back its independence in 1878, it guaranteed minority rights for religion, language and culture.

But since World War II, the country's communist leadership has tried to assimilate the Turks in a series of steps: merging Turkish schools with Bulgarian ones, eliminating school lessons in Turkish, and finally embarking on the whirlwind name-changing campaign.

Demography and religion are the central Bulgarian concerns. Ethnic Turks are reproducing at four times the rate of Bulgarians, while guarding their attachment to Islam. At worst, the ethnic Turks and other Muslim minorities eventually might have challenged ethnic Bulgarian control. At best, they remained outside the mainstream.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

## Nixon sees danger in Gorbachev

NEW YORK (Reuter): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's rise to power marks a dangerous new stage in relations between the superpowers, former President Richard Nixon said in an article published on Saturday.

Gorbachev has "captured the imagination of many in the West with a personal style that is refreshingly different from that of his predecessors," Nixon said.

"If we mistake a change in style for leadership for a change in Soviet international goals, Gorbachev may capture the rest of the West as well."

Gorbachev, Nixon said, "has preserved the long-term (Soviet) objective of pushing for global predominance."

The article, in the New York Times magazine, was adapted from a new book by the former president titled "1999: Victory without War," to be published next month.

Nixon, who met with Gorbachev in July 1986, described Soviet foreign policy since his taking office as "more skillful and subtle than ever. But it has been

more aggressive, not less."

If the Soviet leader's widely publicised domestic reforms are successful, he said, "we will confront a more productive — and more formidable — Soviet Union."

Nixon said he was confident Gorbachev would be able to survive any serious challenge to his power from more conservative Soviet officials.

Unlike Nikita Khrushchev, ousted by his opponents for his reform efforts, Gorbachev "does not leave them in positions in which they can threaten his power."

Instead he "ferrets them out and replaces them with his supporters."

On arms negotiations with the Soviets, Nixon said he opposed any across-the-board 50 per cent cut in nuclear arsenals, saying this would "codify the decisive Soviet superiority in land-based first-strike nuclear weapons."

Enough for a credible first strike capability," he said.

"None of the current (Reagan) administration proposals that have surfaced in the press meets the test," he said.

On Afghanistan, Nixon detailed two conditions for any eventual Soviet pullout:

● Soviet troops must leave the country before US aid to the Afghan rebels is cut.

● "At the same time the United States stops supporting the anti-communists, all Soviet military aid to the communist government in Kabul must be cut."

Nixon listed six areas in which the United States must develop its capabilities to compete with the Soviets.

These included more effective use of diplomacy and economic and military aid, selective use of military force, continued covert actions and greater efforts at ideological persuasion via radio broadcasts.

The Soviet Union seeks victory without war," Nixon said. "If we seek peace without victory we are doomed to defeat."

## Monuments to dead Sikh radicals rise along Pakistani border

By Dilip Ganguly

DERA BABA NANAK, India, (AP): Sikhs fighting for an independent homeland in Punjab are building monuments to their dead comrades along the uneasy frontier with Pakistan to enlist sympathisers and stir up feelings against Indian authorities.

About two dozen, monuments, all with towering flagpoles topped by electric beacons, have appeared since last July. Thirty more are under construction. The men they honour were killed by police trying to halt a Sikh separatist war that has claimed more than 445 lives so far this year.

The memorials serve as places of inspiration for joining the bloody fight against India's Hindu majority, as well as night-time hideouts for fugitive Sikhs gunmen. Police could enter the shrines in search of the fugitives, but they would risk arousing further animosity among the Sikhs, who consider such intrusions a sacrilege.

The construction of the border shrines is a new and troubling phenomenon for India's government officials and border troops.

Signal Each shrine has a "nishaan sahib," the satin-wrapped flagpole that is the supreme symbol of the Sikh warrior faith. Police say Sikh militants use the beacons atop the nishaan sahibs to signal comrades trying to slip back into India from camps in Pakistan.

In addition, groups of young men come to the shrines by truck and by tractor every day to pay

homage to the dead and to leave money for the cause of Khalistan, the name the militants give their unborn Sikh nation.

"We know these so-called memorials are potential powerhouses for churning out terrorists," said Yoginder Paul Birli, police chief of the Gurdaspur district, where most of the memorials have appeared.

## Law

A police officer in the Indian border town of Dera Baba Nanak said there is no law against building such monuments, which can sometimes also include temples, meeting rooms and kitchens.

"How can I stop you from building a gurdwara (Sikh shrine) on your private land, and what if you name it after a terrorist?" he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

One of the new shrines is at Haruwal village, 10 kilometres (6 miles) west of Dera Baba Nanak and a kilometre (half-mile) from the Pakistani border. An emblem of crossed swords and a spear is illuminated by a lamp atop the 24-metre (80 foot) flagpole.

"This is the memorial of martyr Kamaljit Singh Kamba, alias General Sher Singh Sher — the great fighter of the Khalistan Liberation Force — killed on Feb. 7, 1987, in a fake police encounter," says a white marble tablet at the bottom of the flagpole.

"Fake police encounter" is the Sikh term for what police say is the shooting of prisoners "while trying to escape." The militants charge that police shoot prisoners while transporting them to court or to another jail, then

cover up the killings by calling them "attempted escapes."

"Kamba was a top terrorist, and he was killed in an encounter with the police," Birli said. He denied such encounters are faked.

Birli said Kamba was wanted for at least 25 murders.

"My son was not a killer, but a true Sikh who wanted to defend his faith," said Kamba's 50-year-old mother, Surjeet Kaur.

Kamba was 22 and was engaged to be married when he died.

Sikhs, whose 500-year-old faith has roots in both Hinduism and Islam, are a majority in Punjab but form only 2 per cent of India's total population of 800 million. Militant Sikhs say they are fighting domination by the nationwide Hindu majority of 82 per cent.

"Sikhs will rule," a group of about 20 young Sikhs chanted in unison at Kamba's memorial in Haruwal.

Not offering money as a sign of respect, the men left on a tractor.

"The money will go to militants, who now know this particular village supports the cause of Khalistan," Gurbax Singh Majhail, a local Sikh journalist, said.

The shrines' flagpole beacons also act as lighthouses for Sikh militants trying to elude Indian border patrols, said S.S. Virk, a deputy inspector general of the paramilitary central reserve police force.

Indian officials accuse Pakistan of sheltering and training Sikh radicals.

## Medical aid far away for Angola's Unita rebels

By Brendan Boyle

JAMBA, Angola, (Reuter): Jonas Savimbi's anti-government rebels operate up to 1,600 km (1,000 miles) from their base camp among the low thorn trees of southern Angola.

For a wounded guerrilla, the distance can mean he is four months away from medical help.

The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) has an estimated 10,000 men under arms, fighting to topple the Marxist government in Luanda.

Some fight semi-conventional battles against government troops. Others stage hit-and-run guerrilla attacks as far away as Cabinda, an oil-rich Angolan enclave more than 1,600 km northwest of Jamba, their base.

"We have 11 hospitals throughout the south of the country, but I am the only doctor," said Colonel Carlos Mortado, chief medical officer of the Unita Army.

"We are always short of supplies, particularly surgical equipment and some types of drugs."

## Distance

"The biggest problem is the distance. I have just sent a package of medical supplies to our men in Cabinda. They can expect to get them in about four months time," he said.

Mortado is a slightly-built man with wire-framed spectacles, was in Jamba for a parade marking Unita's 22nd anniversary.

Wearing a pistol at his hip and carrying a Soviet-made AK-47 automatic rifle captured from government troops, he commanded a unit of soldiers in neatly pressed green fatigues.

Mortado is one of a handful of whites who serve in Savimbi's Army. He was born in Luanda to Portuguese parents, who have

returned to Lisbon where he qualified as a doctor in 1974.

"There is no Geneva Convention in guerrilla war. We are all soldiers and we don't use the traditional Red Cross."

"We have found that the government makes a point of attacking medical staff if they can identify us," he said.

He said Unita usually established dressing stations close to the front line in conventional clashes.

"It is not like America here. Our most experienced nurses also do surgery. They can do amputations and stitching. Only the most serious cases are passed

back through the lines to one of our hospitals."

The most serious cases are sent to Jamba, where the sand-floored operating theatre is in a small tin-roofed building and the wards are thatched mud huts scattered among trees.

## Neat

The rustic hospital is neat and spacious but has only basic facilities and no X-ray machine.

"A guerrilla wounded in Cabinda will have to walk or be carried by his mates for four months to get help. We don't have helicopters or ambulances. Here soldiers walk or they ride in trucks," said Mortado.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1563 — Peace of Amboise ends first war of religion in France, with Huguenots being granted limited toleration to exercise their religion.

1711 — War is declared between Russia and Turkey.

1775 — Portuguese fleet is repulsed in attack on Monte Video (Montevideo) Uruguay.

1799 — Napoleon Bonaparte begins siege of Acre (Israel) which is defended by Turks.

1808 — Spain's King Charles IV abdicates.

1812 — Spanish cortes passes liberal constitution under a hereditary monarch.



# TV CORNER

## This week on KTV 2

SUNDAY	TUESDAY
6.00 Holy Quran	6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Lone Ranger: "The Abduction of Tom Sawyer". The Lone Ranger recovers a stolen book.	6.10 Rainbow Brite: an animated feature for young viewers.
6.30 Butterfly Island: a wealthy businessman comes to the island and declares his intention to buy the place.	6.30 Punky Brewster: Cherry hides in an old refrigerator while playing hide-and-seek with Punky and her friends.
7.00 Understanding Islam: a local programme on Islamic philosophy, hosted by Arafat Al Ashi.	7.00 Beyond 2000: reports on the fate of space ships; design of new electronic games; artificial eye implants; and generating electricity from tidal waves.
8.00 News in English	8.00 News in English
8.40 Adderly: "Nemesis". Someone tries to kill Adderly, who believes that a man from Latin America is behind the attempted murder.	8.40 You and the Law: a local programme.
9.30 He's the Mayor: a comedy about a man elected as mayor of a small American town.	8.50 Heart of the City: Detective Kennedy arrests a woman involved in drug trafficking.
10.00 TV Bloopers and Practical Jokes: a half-hour show of bloopers made by film personalities.	9.40 Omni: Peter Ustinov presents his half-hour programme on "new frontiers". Tonight Ustinov discusses the use of old and new medical techniques in surgery — for instance acupuncture and lasers.
10.30 Best-Seller: Space. This best-seller is based on James Michener's novel. John faces problems at home and at work.	10.00 Tracey Ullman Show: three years after their separation, a husband returns to his wife asking for forgiveness. Comedy.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown	10.30 TV Movie: "The Best of Saverichers". An undercover policeman becomes an informant but is exposed just before a major robbery.
MONDAY	WEDNESDAY
6.00 Holy Quran	6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Yogis Treasure Hunt: cartoons.	6.10 The Get Along Gang: cartoon series.
6.30 The Animal Express: looking after horses, rhinos and monkeys in captivity.	6.30 The Micro at Work: "Robots in Action". A look at robots used in making cars.
7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news, presented by KTV.	6.50 The Living Isles: "Under the Plough". As arable land spread, vast open fields could not provide home for plants and animals. A look at the species that survived.
7.30 Don't Wait Up: comedy. Toby is crestfallen after his wife refuses to take him back.	7.30 Growing Pains: "Carnival". Maggie neglects her son to take part in a carnival.
8.00 News in English	8.00 News in English
8.40 The Law and Harry McGraw: "Solve it again". McGraw suffers temporary amnesia after being hit by a bullet.	8.40 J.J. Starbuck: "Murder by Design". A man blackmails a woman publisher who plots to murder the blackmailer.
9.30 Horizon: "Trial Babies". Infants born to mothers in their late 30s often suffer from deformities.	9.30 The World of Strange Power: "Mind Over Matter". The human mind is said to be a powerful tool. A look at "mind benders".
10.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown	



Vicky Stavros (Dana Sparks) in a kidnap by white slave traders in Falcon Crest, 10.30 pm, Wednesday.



McGraw suffers from a temporary bout of amnesia in Monday's episode of The Law and Harry McGraw.

## WHAT'S ON

### CINEMA

**British Council**  
This month's feature film for adults is entitled The Emerald Forest. The production by John Boorman is the mystical story of a young white boy spirited away by a tribe and then initiated into manhood and full membership. Elements of magic, fantasy, myth and anthropological fact are introduced in this story. This film will be shown at 6.30 pm on March 19 and 20. Admission free but it is advisable to make reservations. Tel: 2515512.

### SOCIAL

**Filipino Get-together**  
The next "kumustahan" (get-together) will be held on Saturday, March 26, in the Church Hall. All Filipinos are invited. Free snacks will be served. Admission free.

**Kuwait Natural History Group**  
A meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 7.30 pm, at the Gulf English School, Salwa. An illustrated talk on "The Birds and Sights of the Golden Triangle" will be given by Prof. Charles Filcher.

**German-Speaking Cultural Association**  
The election of new committee members will be held at 8 pm

on Saturday, March 19 at the Kuwait Hilton's Old Falaika Room. All German-speaking members are required to attend this meeting.

**Next meeting of the ladies information group.** Contact will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 10 am at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details phone 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

### ARTS

**Ghadir Gallery**  
Egyptian artist Magdi Kenawy is showing his latest collection of lithographs and prints at the gallery in Salhiya Complex. The exhibition is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8 pm, until March 31.

### MUSIC

**Rock 'n' Romance**  
Kuwait Players present Rock 'n' Romance, a rock show with a romantic touch, directed by June Stevenson and Phil Thomas, featuring music by Eric Clapton, Dire Straits, Elton John, Chopin and others. It will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March

## Pick of the Week

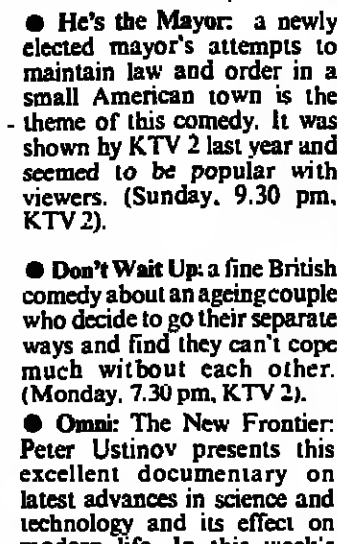
● **He's the Mayor:** a newly elected mayor's attempts to maintain law and order in a small American town is the theme of this comedy. It was shown by KTV 2 last year and seemed to be popular with viewers. (Sunday, 9.30 pm, KTV 2).

● **Don't Wait Up:** a fine British comedy about an ageing couple who decide to go their separate ways and find they can't cope much without each other. (Monday, 7.30 pm, KTV 2).

● **Omni: The New Frontier:** Peter Ustinov presents this excellent documentary on latest advances in science and technology and its effect on modern life. In this week's episode he examines the use of old and new medical techniques — laser and acupuncture — in surgery. (Tuesday, 9.40 pm, KTV 2).

● **The World of Strange Power:** the human mind is said to be a powerful tool. "Mind over Matter" examines the power of the mind through the experiences of "mind-benders." (Wednesday, 9.30 pm, KTV 2).

● **The Halls of Montezuma:** Robert Wagner's film debut, this 1950's production is an



Peter Ustinov.

action movie set during World War II, dealing with marine action in the Pacific. Also featuring Jack Palance and Richard Widmark. (Thursday, 10.30 pm, KTV 2).

● **Hindi feature film,** starring Sarika, Kader Khan, Raj Kiran. The story of a poor man who overcomes all odds, and opposition from wealthy parents, to win the lady. (Friday, 4 pm, KTV 1).

## KTV 1 weekly highlights

SUNDAY	MONDAY
3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'laeb: a daily cartoon serial for children.	5.30 Mama Anisa and Children: a weekly show for young viewers.
5.30 Al Manahat: a programme for young viewers.	7.30 Atfalaa Wal Mustakbil: "Our Children and Their Future." This episode examines at education for Arab children.
7.30 Diwanlyat Shuara Al Nabl: a poetry session featuring Nabl poets.	11.00 Layali Al Hilmiya: new daily Arabic serial. Set in Egypt, it recalls the time of British occupation of Egypt. Starring: Yahya Fakhrani, Safiya Al Omari, Hassan Yusuf, Firdous Abdul Hamid, Huda Sultan.
10.50 Variety Show: featuring Sudanese singer Abdul Karim Al Kabuli. Hosted by Amina Al Sharah.	
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
4.25 Nayma Sadran: new daily serial, featuring Adel Afana, Aheer Essa, Rashida Al Dajani, Dawood Jalal. The story of two rival families of a hedonist tribe. Their quarrel affects the life of the tribe.	5.15 Bain Al Ans Wa Al Yum: Between Yesterday and Today. Presented by Fatima Toq. Directed by Saleh Al Ojari.
	7.05 With Students: a weekly quiz show for children of public schools in Kuwait. Nuriya Farhan conducts this week's contest between students of two girls' schools.
	10.45 Music Studio: a weekly

variety show featuring such performers as Ghared Shatti, Omar Al Rajae, Shaker Zuaid and Mohammad Omar.

### THURSDAY

10.00 Fi Rihab Tarbiya: a local programme on schooling in Kuwait. It follows the educational, cultural and sporting activities of school children.	11.30 Al Islam Wal Insan: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Abdul Suboor Shahin.
12.00 Ma Da' Wa Anbama Min Akhbar Jahannam: a weekly serial featuring Sheza Salem, Khalil Rifai, Mohammad Hussain, Abdul Rahim.	4.15 The Saint: Roger Moore plays the dehoniar detective Simon Templar. A detective is on a secret mission to Berlin when things go wrong.
7.30 Bahath Al Saadiah: ep. 2: weekly Arabic serial. Starring: Samir Ghanem, Hassan Mustafa, Suad Nasr.	10.30 Rajul Fi Faq Al Nisa': Arabic feature film. Starring: Basi, Farouk Fishawi, Minerva. A young man gets involved in robbery after meeting two pretty girls. Directed by Ahmad Saqar.
	FRIDAY
	10.20 Children's Magazine: a programme for children by children.
	4.00 Hindi Feature Film: starring Sarika, Kader Khan.
	8.00 Nadwa Al Usbooh: part two of discussion on Kuwait as viewed by Kuwaitis.
	10.45 Khurooj An Al Ma'louf: last episode of local Arabic play featuring Hayat Al Fahad, Sulaiman Yaseen, Ahmad Al Saleh, Social.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

### KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran	2.30 World News via Satellite	3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'laeb: cartoon serial	4.00 News Summary	4.05 Magazine D'Actualite	4.25 Ghadab Al Sahara: episode 15; daily Arabic serial	5.45 Open University	6.50 News Summary	6.55 Noor Al Islam: "Al Muslimeen Al Ua'il." Guests are Zubair Mustafa Al Shawi, Mohammad Taha Al Sahunji. Hosted by Ahmad Abdul Qadir.	7.25 Nazrat Alal Alam: cultural film	7.40 Security and Citizens: presented by Nasser Radhan.	8.15 Good Evening and Local News	9.00 News in Arabic	10.00 Surraq Al Simt: Arabic serial, ep. 16; starring Sana Jamil, Hamdi Ghaith, Anwar Ismael, Mimi Jamal, Ahmed Badr.	10.50 Dafatar Al Ayam: a well-known Arab author Yahya Haqqi talks about his books and literature in the Arab world.	11.45 News Summary	11.50 World News via Satellite	12.25 Holy Quran/Closedown
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The Houston Knights return with more action in tonight's episode at 8.40 pm, KTV 2.

### KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran	6.10 Thundercats: cartoons	6.30 The Zoo Family: "Last Cheeta." The zoo keeper feels responsible for the death of an animal under his care.	7.00 Lorne Greene's New Wilderness: this episode examines wildlife in the Colorado area.	7.30 Married with Children: Steve joins a Friday night poker game and ends up losing his entire pay cheque.	8.00 News in English	8.40 Houston Knights: "Home is Where the Heart Is." The wife of a space scientist
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calls in the police after she learns of her husband's involvement with gangsters.

9.30 Silk Road: "The Silk City at the Edge of Asia." A visit to a Turkish city, which was once the centre for manufacturing silk.

10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: "Picking Up the Pieces." Starring: Margaret Kidder, David Akroyd. The story of a woman and her unsuccessful attempt to separate from her ill-tempered husband.

11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

## RADIO PROGRAMMES

### English

Morning	
0800	Opening
0802	Songs and Music
0830	News
0840	Songs and Music
0845	Daily Programme
0900	Cultural Horizon
0930	Reggae Rock
1000	Our Press Today
1005	Songs and Music
1030	The Years of Pop
1100	Closedown
1330	News on FM Service
Evening	
2100	Opening
2102	Kuwait: Our Beloved Homeland
2120	Songs and Music
2130	News
2145	Point of View
2155	Songs and Music
2200	Kuwait in a Week
2215	Rock On
2300	Strictly Romantic
2330	Amazing Facts
2400	Closedown

### BBC World Services

0600	World News
09	News about Britain
15	Radio Newsworld
30	Personal View
45	Recording of the Week
0100	News Summary followed by Outlook
30	Juke Box Dury
45	Nature Notebook
0200	World News
09	Commentary
15	Network UK
30	People and Politics
0300	World News
09	News about Britain
15	The World Today
30	Business Matters
0400	Newsworld
30	Here's Humphil
45	Reflections
0500	Financial News
0600	World News
09	Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30	Personal View
45	The World Today
0600	Newsworld
09	Meridian
0700	World News
09	Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary



# New fling for king of swing

Jazz enthusiasts in Thailand are keeping the music of Benny Goodman alive.

By Richard Roth-Haas

BANGKOK, Thailand (UPI) — A small, dedicated group is making sure that the legacy of that undeniably American form of music "swing" — and its undeniable "king" — Benny Goodman — live on. What's ironic is that they're doing it in Thailand.

In a new two-storey shrine on a noisy city street in Bangkok, the Benny Goodman Society has stored what it claims is the world's largest collection of the late clarinetist's music.

On hand are more than 15,000 recordings, 1,200 78 rpm records, 800 tapes, 600 acetate-coated aluminium disks, 600 lps, and test pressings in shellac made between 1922 and 1940.

"Most of the collection is in mint condition," said Kurt Mueller, 65, the society's first president.

Mueller, a Swiss import-export merchant, drummer and close friend of Goodman, has invested in the Goodman Society much of the fortune it took him a lifetime in business to acquire.

"I want to do my share to keep Benny Goodman's music alive as much as possible — especially with the younger generation," he said. "That is what this collection is here for."

Devotees Goodman was the perfectionist who gave jazz its "swing" format which became popular in the late 1930s, and remained so until his death in 1986.

"The tragedy is that the society would have thrived in gathering material if Goodman had lived a little longer," Mueller said.

Only three weeks before his death, Goodman agreed to arrange with his recording companies that the rights to his music go to the society, Mueller said.

Still, the society of eight devotees has some material

never before released and some recorded by Mueller when he managed Goodman's tours in Thailand and Europe.

Mueller is taking no chances on security for the collection. At night its 12 rows of shelves on wheels are pushed together to form a huge box which is then locked. Surveillance cameras watch over it. Entrances are electronically locked.

Jack Towers, who has remastered old tapes for the Columbia and fantasy labels and the Smithsonian institution, is working to "digitalise" scratchy old recordings that will render a better sound quality to attract a new generation of listeners.

"This is very tough to do — to get kids to listen to what their dads and granddads listened to," Towers said. "American music and world music deserves to have this stuff stick around and be available."

Towers "cleans" Goodman's music electronically. He then removes manually any noise the machines miss.

"I turn the tape over and very carefully edit it (noise) off. It can be a very long job if it is very noisy disc," Towers said.

The society has been working for nearly two years to bring out a three-LP set of Goodman playing in Thailand in 1966, live 1980 performances in Berlin and music from a Danish television programme.

"All never out on record before," Mueller said. "We have a helluva lot of material ready — nine master tapes which could fill up 10 lps at least."

The lp set, scheduled for release next fall, is to include a rare 1934 recording of Goodman playing a tenor saxophone instead of his trademark clarinet.

The society's collection also includes the only recordings of Goodman and Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, a Goodman fan, friend and student for many years, playing together.



Benny Goodman was the perfectionist who gave jazz its swing in the 1930's.

The society also is making a computer record of where Goodman played, when and with whom, in addition to storing a large collection of Goodman photographs via a laser printer, which converts the digital data into high quality hard copy — as small as a postage stamp or as large as a poster.

Later this year, Mueller plans a royal command performance with surviving alumni of Goodman's groups. Other plans include producing syndicated radio programs in five languages and, for society members, a monthly newsletter, cassette, photos, videos and books.

In April, Mueller plans to

meet in the United States with Goodman's family, Columbia records, and RCA to discuss royalties.

"That has to be properly settled before I issue the records," he said. "I don't want to be a bootlegger."

The three-lp set is scheduled to be distributed first in Thailand then gradually released in England, Germany, Japan and America.

Mueller expects some day to press enough records to supply the whole world — but worries he won't be able to keep up with demand.

"This is only the beginning," he said as he snapped his fingers and tapped a foot in time to another Goodman tune.

# Astley tops charts both sides of the Atlantic

NEW YORK, (AP) — Rick Astley's hit "Never Gonna Give You Up" catapulted from last week's fifth place to grab the top position of the pop singles record charts in the United States.

Displaced from number one was the three-week winner "Father Figure" by George Michael, which dropped to second place, while Belinda Carlisle's "I Get Weak" retained its hold on third position.

Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror" climbed up three notches to fourth place and "Endless Summer Nights" by Richard Marx moved up one notch to fifth.

Debbie Gibson's "Out of the Blue" advanced two steps to sixth place. Just Like Paradise by David Lee Roth climbed from seventh to eighth, while "What Have I Done To Deserve This" by the Pet Shop Boys and "Dusty Springfield" plummeted from fourth place to tenth.

There were two newcomers to the chart this week: Billy Ocean's "Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car" and "I Want Her" by Keith Sweat.

Ricky Van Shelton took over

the top of the Cash Box magazine country-and-western singles chart with "Life Turned Her That Way, Charley Pride's 'Shouldn't It Be Easier Than This' was second, and Turn It Loose by the Judds was third.

And in London Rick Astley also stayed atop his country's pop singles record chart for the second straight week with "Together Forever."

Joe Le Taxi by Vanessa Paradis pushed up from fourth to second place ahead of "I Should Be So Lucky" by Kylie Minogue, which spun its wheels in third.

Three newcomers moved into the top ten Love Is Contagious by Taja Sevelle in seventh place, Don't Turn Around by Erasure in ninth, and Ship of Fools by Erasure in 10th.

## Top Ten US

The ten top pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (5) Never Gonna Give You Up — Rick Astley (RCA)
2. (1) Father Figure — George Michael (Columbia)
3. (3) I Get Weak — Belinda Carlisle (MCA)

4. (7) Man in the Mirror — Michael Jackson (Epic)

5. (6) Endless Summer Nights — Richard Marx (EMI-Manhattan)

6. (8) Out of the Blue — Debbie Gibson (Atlantic)

7. (13) Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car — Billy Ocean (Jive-Arista)

8. (9) Just Like Paradise — David Lee Roth (Warner Brothers)

9. (12) I Want Her — Keith Sweat (Vintertainment-Electra)

10. (4) What Have I Done To Deserve This — The Pet Shop Boys and Dusty Springfield (EMI-Manhattan)

The ten top country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (5) Life Turned Her That Way — Ricky Van Shelton (Columbia)
2. (3) Shouldn't It Be Easier Than This — Charley Pride (16th Avenue)
3. (7) Turn It Loose — The Judds (RCA-Curb)

4. (1) Too Gone Too Long — Randy Travis (Warner Brothers)

5. (8) Touch and Go Crazy — Lee Greenwood (MCA)

6. (9) Love Will Find Its Way To You — Reba McEntire (MCA)

7. (6) This Missin' You Heart of Mine — Sawyer Brown (Capitol-Curb)

8. (12) I Wanna Dance With You — Eddie Rabbit (RCA)

9. (11) Santa Fe — Bellamy Brothers (MCA-Curb)

10. (14) Strangers Again — Holly Dunn (MTM)

## Top Ten UK

This week's top 10 listings, as compiled by Melody Maker magazine, with last week's places in parentheses:

1. (1) Together Forever — Rick Astley (RCA)
2. (4) Joe Le Taxi — Vanessa Paradis (Polydor)
3. (3) I Should Be So Lucky — Kylie Minogue (PWL)

4. (2) Beat It — Bomb The Bass (Rhythm King)

5. (6) Doctorin' the House — Cold Cut (Ahead of Time)

6. (8) Crash — Primitives (RCA)

7. (20) Love Is Contagious — Taja Sevelle (Reprise)

8. (5) Get Outta My Dreams — Billy Ocean (Jive)

9. (24) Don't Turn Around — Erasure (Mango)

10. (14) Ship of Fools — Erasure (Mute)

## The Rat Pack is back

# Greyer, paunchier...but still packing 'em in

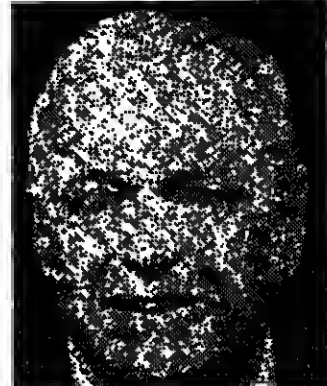
By Frank Taylor

THE Rat Pack is back. A little greyer, a bit paunchier, but, if advance ticket sales are any yardstick, still able to pull in the fans as they did more than 20 years ago.

Frank Sinatra, 72, Dean Martin, 70, and Sammy Davis Jr., 62, begin a gruelling tour of cities all over the United States with a concert in Oakland, California, last week.

As in the old days, the appearances are mostly one-night stands. As in the old days, they sing, dance, laugh at each other's ad-lib jokes and make asides to the chorus girls.

As in the old days, they have left their wives at home — at least for the initial part of the tour.



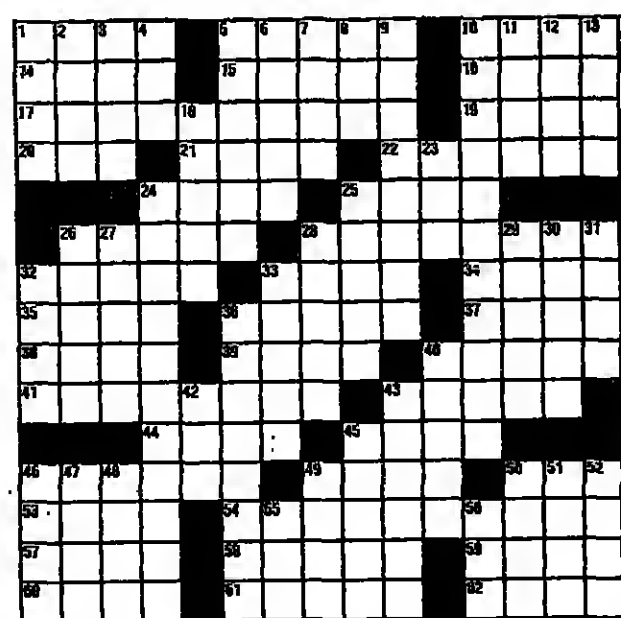
Golden oldies: left to right, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., and Dean Martin

promoters might have had about Mr Sinatra's idea for a grand reunion tour have been dispelled by advance ticket sales.

Seats for the Oakland show sold out in an hour, and the four performances at New York's Radio City Music Hall went in 45 minutes.

Some of the concerts will take place on revolving stages — but that is about the only concession made by the Rat Pack to entertainment technology. There will be no special sound effects, no lasers and no spectacular light displays.

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Bunker or
  - 2 Lavender
  - 3 Belief
  - 4 At that moment
  - 5 Woodwind instrument
  - 6 Please
  - 7 Lagomorph
  - 8 Aka Clem
  - 9 Kaddie-hopper
  - 10 Lamb
  - 11 Hewer's tool
  - 12 Imitates
  - 13 Conduct
  - 14 Frank
  - 15 Like autumn leaves
  - 16 Brownish gray
  - 17 Racine awkwardly
  - 18 Toren of "Casbah"
  - 19 Play out
  - 20 Part of a rosary
  - 21 Ray of movie fame
  - 22 Destined
  - 23 Willing's partner
  - 24 Explorer
  - 25 Ericsson
  - 26 Sheltered, et sea
  - 27 Tuck's title
  - 28 Napoleon's father
  - 29 Coin takers
  - 30 Angels' rewards?
  - 31 Numerical suffix
  - 32 Worn-out
  - 33 Wise one
  - 34 Louis, the champion
  - 35 Dirm
  - 36 "Sayonara" actor
  - 37 Exude
  - 38 Napoleon, e.g.
  - 39 "Big Daddy" portrayer
  - 40 Desire
- DOWN**
- 1 Circle dance
  - 2 Wild goat
  - 3 Mine find
  - 4 Brown of renown
  - 5 Plains Indian's home
  - 6 Actress Terry
  - 7 Cole et al.
  - 8 WWII area
  - 9 Offered
  - 10 Manfred von Richthofen
  - 11 In great shape
  - 12 Rocker Clapton
  - 13 Finicky
  - 14 Fraternity letter
  - 15 Saver's initials
  - 16 Free and clear
  - 17 Wild time
  - 18 "Rocky" co-star
  - 19 "As You Like It" setting
  - 20 Loc
  - 21 Ledger item
  - 22 Choral syllables
  - 23 Fulda feeder
  - 24 Brewer's staple
  - 25 A slope
  - 26 Hesitated
  - 27 Lika a cheetah
  - 28 River isle
  - 29 Smooth transitions, in music
  - 30 Buffet
  - 31 Black, in verse
  - 32 Ice formation
  - 33 Melt together
  - 34 Var.
  - 35 DCLLI X II
  - 36 By —
  - 37 Rara bird
  - 38 Actual being
  - 39 Outside: Prefix
  - 40 One of the Cratchits
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- RIASP CAIE HOED  
ALLA ASIDE ALVA  
HEARTHROB LAIR  
SEWSEEM BAFFLE  
COLORS TRITEST  
OREL SHODACES  
EGAD SHADE RATE  
DASH PETE TROT  
NEEDLES PREENS  
AINAT PAID  
TIARAS MIST ODE  
EDIT HEARTACHES  
NODE YALTA AIRS  
SLED TESS TONE

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠AKQ652 ♥6 ♦AJ10 ♣AKJ  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT 3 ♦  
What action do you take?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠AKQ652 ♥AJ10 ♦6 ♣AKJ  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT 3 ♦  
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠AKQJ62 ♥A109 ♦K8 ♣AK  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT 3 ♦  
What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
♠72 ♥AKJ73 ♦K95 ♣J42  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass  
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
♠J42 ♥AKJ73 ♦K95 ♣72  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass  
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠9 ♥AKJ1042 ♦AKJ6 ♣72  
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?



"Ladies and gentlemen... the bride and groom."



"There's a spider in the kitchen!"



"Have you rung them about the brightness control yet?"

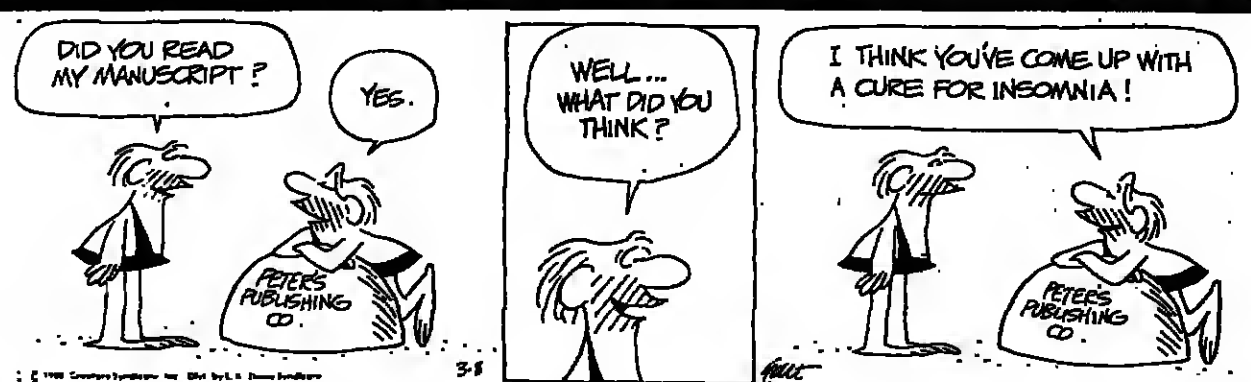
## THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



## B.C.

By Johnny Hart



## YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**  
The Moon's influence will help you to do something more positive. You should avoid going to extremes. Try to keep out of controversy. Be frugal.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**  
You will be stimulated to see things from the bright side. You should take a great care to avoid confusion. Make sure you are not late for an appointment. Be a little more tidy.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**  
If you ask for too much you may well end with nothing. You must avoid jumping to conclusions. Keep your wits very much about you. Be fair.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**  
You should do your best to keep calm whatever the provocation. Ensure you do not get in anyone's way. Make sure your partner has no reason to feel neglected. Be attentive.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**  
The general situation continues to be favourable. You will be able to use your personal resources to great effect. Make sure you do not indulge in too many "snacks". Be sympathetic.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**  
You will feel more like your old self. You will be on good terms with a neighbour of yours. Do not turn your back on change. Be responsive.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**  
You should not keep your colleagues on tenterhooks. Do not rely on hearsay. Instead check your facts. You should not become involved in what does not really concern you. Be cordial.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**  
The prospects are good, but you must not chop and change your mind. What you know should be done now must not be left until later. Avoid making a nuisance of yourself. Be determined.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**  
You will be able to spend the day in congenial company. The Moon's influence will help you to make the best of things. You should not try to do too many things all at once. Be moderate.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**  
You should make sure you get your priorities right. You will be able to spend some time on a hobby. You will tend to be rather on the resentful side. Be observant.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**  
There will be plenty to do and you should try to keep a clear head. You will be able to make good progress with an important project. If you feel a bit tired try to have an early night. Be tactful.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**  
You will be able to have a pleasant day only you must not neglect your chores. A little while in the open air will do you good. You should have a little more faith in yourself. Be considerate.



# Children of conflict

From Northern Ireland to Nicaragua, Palestine, Lebanon and South Africa, children are caught up in armed conflict, their lives distorted by violence and disruption. Professor Jennifer Bryce studies the impact.

By Angela Neustatter

THE father of one of the Israeli soldiers accused of beating up Palestinian prisoners blamed the army for turning his son into "a beater of women and children."

In saying this he touched on a matter which Professor Jennifer Bryce, who has studied the impact of military conflict on the young, considered it vital that we understand. "We know from research that children living surrounded by war may well grow up with a morality based on what they have seen around them as a model," she says.

Bryce, a soft spoken, passionate woman who focused on the lot of children in these situations while working at the University of Beirut for several years, points out that since the Second World War there have been more than 150 military conflicts in the developing world as well as a few in the West.

Particularly topical is the study of 353 Israeli and Palestinian children, which showed, during an earlier conflict on Israel's West Bank, that 87 per cent of the children had been involved in at least one confrontation with Israeli security forces, while in 1986 it was known that Uganda's Resistance Army included about 3,000 children under 16 years and in Zambia 18,000 refugees were children.

From Northern Ireland to Nicaragua, in Israel and South Africa, children are caught up

in armed conflict, their lives distorted by ever present violence and disruption.

"In peaceful countries we can see how valuable a happy, prosperous childhood is; we understand the importance of a family living in peace," she says. "But it is impossible for so many children around the world."

Bryce came to London recently to take part in a Save the Children Fund seminar on children caught in conflict and to present Lynda Chalker, of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with a copy of the newly drafted "Convention on the Rights of Children", a document designed to protect children in conflict, which, it is hoped, governments will sign.

One of the consequences of war is often poverty as economies break down and the breadwinner of the family goes off to fight; the failing of health services and the collapse of education follow.

## Breakdown

And it is the break up or breakdown of the family which can be as damaging as anything children experience, according to Bryce. Her book *Cries of the Children in Lebanon* published by Unicef, looks at the effects of war on children and at the role the family plays in helping them to cope.

"Research in Britain has shown that children who were separated from their families during the last world wars suffered more traumas than children who lived with bombing,



Author Jennifer Bryce.

death, destruction around them," Bryce says. "The same was true in Lebanon. So what we find, in fact, is what is known in a peace context — that the family is the vital source of support, emotional strength, mental health for children."

The question is, how can families be supported and helped to give their children the best childhood possible during a war? Here the role of agencies such as Save the Children and Unicef is all important, because they can provide health care, vaccinations, clean water and education, but also in a small grass roots way, they can work in communities providing mothers with something as basic as pre-school groups, which mean the mothers get time for themselves — and many of them are very stressed and depressed and need a break if they are to care for their children well. These groups provide community contact and through the children the needs of the family can be seen. And this is where the West can help. These agencies rely on donations to do their work."

And what, taking the issue from another side, does she think of the way children are "involved" in war through peace demonstrations or being taken to live in camps such as Greenham? Isn't this forcing them to contemplate war or perhaps to live unnecessarily in fear of it?

She pauses and thinks for some time before answering. "It is not good if children really are made fearful and to feel powerless, but the other side of this is that at least peace



A 14-year old Palestinian boy is restrained by an equally youthful Israeli soldier, in the recent Palestinian uprising.

demonstrations teach children that there is some way they can try to work to avoid war, to combat it, that there is a mechanism for trying to achieve peace. I think that is a valuable lesson.

"But before I weep for the 14-year-old Finnish children who, we hear, are anxious about nuclear war, I am concerned with the children who actually live with war and who urgently need our help."



Women gather at a village before proceeding to the bridegroom's house in Herat, Afghanistan.

Afghan women as seen through foreign eyes

## Tales from a vanishing world

By Radek Sikorski

IT is simply not true that all Muslim women are kept in domestic slavery, as the stereotype would have it. Muslim women have as much freedom as they can afford — literally, in ready cash. I know of several financially independent Muslim women who have more personal independence, and more reason to use it wisely, than any middle-class housewife. They are artists, valued professionals, even diplomats. What unites them is that their families had the sense and the money to give them education, as well as a financial settlement which made them independent of their husbands.

Only one of the women in Veronika Doubleday's *Three Women of Herat* enjoyed anything like the independence of these aristocratic exceptions and for a similar reason. Shirin belonged to the despised Minstrel clan, the hereditary musicians and dancers in Herat. She was a highly regarded singer and band-leader in the city and, therefore, a money earner in her own right. Doubleday shrewdly notes how this single economic fact determines the way of life of the Minstrels. Since the women are the family earners, and not simply domestic, there is no need to haggle for bride-wealth before marrying them off. Instead, the husband must undertake to withdraw them from the band, thus ensuring his powerlessness in the future. The Minstrels, regarded as pariahs in Herat because the

women performers do not observe full purdah (literally "curtain," more generally referring to the veiling and seclusion of women), were the only ones who could consciously choose their own husbands or, if need be, get their way in obtaining a divorce. The other two women are more representative specimens: Mariam, a lucky girl who became a female head of her family at an early age, thus escaping the painful subjugation to the clan hierarchy, and the miserable woman, called only Mother of Nebi, kept in strict seclusion by a tyrannical husband and haunted by evil spirits.

Doubleday spent several months in Herat in the 1970s, before the Communist coup in Afghanistan and the What is worthy of respect is that Doubleday did not enter into this alien world as a deviant from Western society, she is not an uncritical imitator estranged from her own culture. She is a secular, Guardian-reading, university graduate who ultimately condemns Herat's quaint customs.

"You can really feel the peace of Islam in Herat," Bruce Chatwin told me before I set off for Afghanistan last summer. More than 10 years after Doubleday's return, when I reached the city after seven weeks' journey we were bombed by Soviet planes almost every day, and shelled with rockets virtually round the clock. Much has changed in Herat since the time when Doubleday became an adopted citizen. The price of women, for

one, has shot up. When I was offered a bride near Herat a few months ago, the asking price was 500,000 Afghani (£2,000), five times what the author tells us it had been in the old days. I was assured that she would be a 14-year-old beauty from the best family in the village, a healthy girl who would bear me as many children as I could afford to feed.

The reason for this inflation is that about half of Herat's inhabitants have either been killed or become refugees in Iran and Pakistan. In March 1979, the inhabitants of Herat rose up against the Communist government, but they were defeated by the combined efforts of the Soviet Air Force and an Afghan tank regiment — about 20,000 people were killed in one week. The historic city, with its magnificent mosques, shrines and tombs, is in ruins, but the guerrillas still fight for the rubble that remains. Many of the villages to which Doubleday went to sing with the Minstrels are now completely deserted, the once-fertile countryside turned into man-made wasteland. Her friends are probably dead, or miserable and in a refugee camp. Herat will never be the same, even if the Russians one day back up and go. Three Women of Herat is a sensitive, knowledgeable and very moving account of an annihilated civilisation.

THREE WOMEN OF HERAT by Veronika Doubleday Cape £12.95 pp225.

## Defrocking the fashion world

While the fashion folk flaunt their wares in Europe and the USA this month, author Nicholas Coleridge attempts to unmask the 'conspiracy' behind this multi-million dollar industry.

By Brenda Polan

FROCKS, store politics, designer follies, the perfections of fashion editors and the posturings of the hangers-on that's the agenda at a fashion party. And the fashion folk do love a party.

Twice a year they get a surfeit of them. In March and October the industry flogs its wares. The tiny top percentage (the "designer-labels") does it with strenuous style. First in Milan, then London, then Paris, then New York, press, buyers and hangers-on spend their days in stuffy showrooms and foetid tents watching the frocks and their evenings partying valiantly. Last week the venue was Milan, next it's London and the not-to-be-missed party of this and many years. For, unlike the parties which proliferate on either side of it, this party is not about launching frocks, it's about launching a book about the makers, sellers and wearers of frocks. It is Nicholas Coleridge's book and it is called *The Fashion Conspiracy* (Heinemann, £12.95). It is a very unkind book.

Nicholas Coleridge, who is editor of the upper-class glossy magazine, *Harpers & Queen*, does not like the fashion folk. He particularly does not like foreign fashion folk. He finds them "quite ridiculous, embarrassingly vainglorious, contemptibly superficial and hardly sane."

In fact, one of his chapters starts with the (unjustified) single sentence paragraph: "There are many theories to explain why fashion editors go mad." The buyers (the women and men who buy the stock on behalf of stores) are only distinguishable from these deranged harpies by newer clothes, tidier hair, the money they have to spend, their suites at the Crillon, a sense of injury at having to take a back seat (literally) to some mediocre fashion journalist and an even higher, more glassy-eyed, level of paranoia.

But these chapters, and the one on fashion "legends" — the women like Paloma Picasso, Tina Chow, Loulou de la Falaise, Anna Piaggi and the late Hebe Dorsey who function as designers' muse, accessory, house model and exhibitionistic megabimbo — are merely appendices.

The main drift of the book juxtaposes vivid descriptions of the sweatshops of Seoul, Madras and Brick Lane with interviews with designers and with women who are in the habit of purchasing several outfits a season at \$10,000 a frock. "What," Nan Kempner, wife of the chairman of the investment bankers, Lowe Brothers, offered up to fortune and the author, "can you do as often as dress?" Explaining a life apparently centred obsessively on clothes and charity work. Not flag-selling, of course; rather, organising \$1,000-a-

plate fund-raisers. To which to wear the \$10,000 frocks, points out Mr Coleridge, uncharitably.

Mr Coleridge really doesn't like these women (and who can blame him) but he is grateful to them. In a chapter which is an expanded version of a memorably funny article he wrote for his magazine he expounds his theory of fashion. It is for kept women and vengeful wives. As payment for the services of a modern mistress, it is nicely

ephemeral; not as vulgar as a straight cash deal, not as committed as paying the rent, not as effortful as choosing (or requiring one's secretary to choose) a proper dress.

And while rich and randy Mr X is dressing his mistress in Versace, round the corner his wronged, neglected and furious wife is intent on revenge, depleting his bank balance at Valentino. Both designers and many of their peers, reckons Mr Coleridge, have acquired



Nicholas Coleridge.

matching sets of palazzos as the indirect wages of Mr X's sin.

And like the English gentleman he is, Mr Coleridge finds that deeply distasteful. So distasteful that his emotional response clouds his intellect. For the editor of *Harpers*, reluctantly fulfilling his obligations and putting in an appearance at the fashion bashes where his advertisers will expect to see him, perhaps that is all there is to fashion: the desperate, rapid, rich or kept women handing over fortunes to Christian Lacroix, Oscar de la Renta, Gianni Versace and Bruce Oldfield on the one hand; the undernourished children of the Third World blinding themselves for pennies at Victorian sewing machines in sordid sweatshops on the other. Certainly it is part of the story.

But it is a minute part of the story and if conspiracy there is, it is an old and large one and Mr Coleridge has not discovered it, merely joined it. For more than a century (since men stopped wearing pretty clothes) men and some fifth-columnist women have conspired to trivialise fashion and to be little those who take pleasure in it: women, almost exclusively.

The attitude, not the clothes, is a tool of oppression. Misogynists will adore Mr Coleridge's book. Look how silly women are. Look, indeed, at how flaky are the people who pander to their silliness.

To use a very simple analogy: there are gourmets, gourmets, compulsive eaters, anorectics and bulimics; and there are people who enjoy a good meal beautifully prepared but often have to snack at their desks. The majority of consumers and providers of fashion fall into or service the latter category. *The Fashion Conspiracy* is a useful addition to the literature of dysfunction.



A model at the recent Milan autumn/winter '88 women's collection.

## FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

## CUT BACK ON SPORTS IF MENSTRUAL CYCLE IS DISRUPTED

QUESTION: What do you do if your periods stop when you're in a sports training programme?

ANSWER: Irregular or absent menstrual periods in women who train especially hard in athletics is not unusual. However, the condition, called athletic amenorrhoea, is not well understood. Only in the past three years, have physicians begun to realise that the condition can create some real problems. As a result of the low estrogen levels, menstrual cycles are disrupted, bones become fragile, and fertility declines. Once thought to be reversible, this condition can cause permanent damage.

The most disturbing problem is the fragile bones, which can cause fractures and other injuries. Osteoporosis, once seen only in older, menopausal women, is now showing up among athletic young women.

Researchers have tackled the problem of athletic amenorrhoea in the past three years, but little is known about what causes it or how to treat it. We're learning more about it as the research progresses, but there is still considerable debate among physicians

about how it should be treated. Some believe very strongly in estrogen replacement therapy, often in the form of birth-control pills. Others advocate weight gain and decreasing the intensity of exercise. Still others say there is not yet enough research to warrant treating the problem at all.

My advice to the young woman athlete is to cut back on training if the menstrual cycle becomes disrupted. Regular cycles indicate a healthy hormonal function, and this is essential for continued good health. When the cycle becomes irregular or periods become very light, the body is signalling that there is a problem. And, when there's a problem with your body, you're wise to do what you can to fix it.

QUESTION: If golf is so safe, how can you be injured while playing?

ANSWER: Who said golf was safe? I know it wasn't President Gerald Ford! Golf injuries aren't exactly common, but they do happen. Golfers don't experience the severe injuries that are more common in other sports, but their injuries can cause just as much discomfort and disability.

Low back pain and problems with joints

and tendons are the most frequent complaints of golfers who have injured themselves. The back problems can range from strained muscles to ruptured discs. The twisting action required to hit a golf ball can injure the vulnerable lower back. Wrist and elbows are also often the site of inflamed tendons because of too much play on the golf course. Any motion that is repeated over and over can create a strain on the joint. Golfers who practice the same swing over and over often experience pain in the muscles used in the swing. Shoulder injuries also can happen to the golfer who has a mishap during the swing. Arthritic golfers should be especially careful, using a grip with the bands spaced wider apart and possibly using clubs that are specially fitted to reduce shock to the hands and arms when the ball is hit.

The best advice to avoid golf injuries is to start each season slowly, gradually building to a comfortable length of play. And take a few minutes to stretch your muscles before you begin play. Oh yes, and remember to duck when someone yells "fore."

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## Last word on London's lurid side

By Gregory Jensen

LONDON. (UPI): Two intrepid researchers have just finished rattling nearly every skeleton in London's closets to pinpoint the scandals, the scams and those salacious folks who shocked this city through eight centuries.

"We went after the less than virtuous," said Denise Silver-Carr in an interview. "The chronicle of evil is unrelenting."

She and co-author Felix Barker got the idea from the official "Blue plaques" that are fixed to the outside of homes that once were the residences of London's illustrious and famous.

Their version is the imaginary "black plaque" to mark "dens of vice, abodes of love and the homes of the disreputable." "We wanted to know where the wicked people lived," Silver-Carr said. "They're lots more entertaining than good people."

The result is *The Black Plaque Guide to London*, a captivating new book listing the blackest of London's black sheep. The book identifies "189 people whose names we would like to see disfiguring 161 addresses," the authors said.

The entries make up a chronicle stretching from 1196 to 1987, and no one in history is immune, not even Queen Victoria.

Victoria, the authors write, went about "spreading a scandalous rumour and compounding an injustice" in 1839, accusing her mother's lady-in-waiting of being pregnant and insisting the woman be examined.

The accusation proved false, but the 19-year-old queen "publicly seems to have been curiously insensitive to the uproar she had provoked."

One of the odder entries is Oscar Merrill Hartzell of Madison county, Iowa, who pulled off a 10-year swindle on both sides of the Atlantic.

Hartzell moved into No. 20 Basil street in the 1920s and spread word he was acting for a descendant of Sir Francis Drake's unknown son, who, he intimated, also was the son of Queen Elizabeth I.

Extradited

This heir could recoup millions in gold captured by Drake but hidden ever since in the Tower of London if Hartzell only had funds to fight the case.

Thousands of people contributed, especially from the United States, lured by Hartzell's promised return of 500 to 1.

Hartzell was extradited to the United States in 1933, tried in Sioux City, Iowa, and jailed for 10 years. The authors found his London address on the original extradition order, and the "Iowa state historical department sent us a complete

file," Silver-Carr said.

Another tale involves the 18-year-old who forged Shakespeare plays. One of his "works" was judged authentic by 17 leading literary experts and was performed on stage, to general ridicule.

Then there is the story of Teresia Constantia Phillips, who not only kissed and told — beginning with her seduction at 12 by a lord — but offered to sell copies of her scandalous memoirs to the crowd which came to see her arrested in 1748.

Not to be missed is Dr James Graham, who "in an age of quacks had no peer," the authors claim.

They give lurid details of his notorious "cures" in the 1780s, particularly his "grand celestial bed." A poignant touch is the way he and the future Emma Lady Hamilton demonstrated mud baths — "the doctor in an enormous wig and Emma with her hair elaborately dressed with powder, flowers and feathers and wearing two ropes of pearls on her neck and naked breasts."

For true wickedness try the Duke of Wellington's nephew, William Pole-Tyney-Long-Wellesley. His career of seduction, gambling and general dissipation was so extraordinary — he tried to kidnap his own children for money — that one newspaper obituary said he was "redeemed by no single virtue, adorned by no single grace... deservedly avoided by all men."

## ANDY CAPP

By Smith





## SCREEN

Louis Malle film depicts Nazi horror through adolescent eyes

## When the Gestapo came to school

By Caren Ross

NEW YORK. (Reuter): Louis Malle could not forget the day when the Gestapo raided his school and took a 13-year-old classmate away to his death at Auschwitz.

The seizure of the boy, who had briefly found refuge from the Nazis in a Catholic boys' school in France, is the subject of Malle's new movie, *An Revoir Les Enfants* (Goodbye Children).

"It's the one movie I would like to be remembered for," the 55-year-old director, writer and producer said, clutching the hand of his wife, actress Candice Bergen, "the one story I've wanted to tell for years and years."

"It's my most important, most personal," said Malle, whose earlier works include *Pretty Baby*, *Atlantic City*, *Alamo Bay*, *My Dinner with Andre* and *Lacombe, Lucien*.

He said Lacombe, Lucien, about the German occupation of France, was just a taste of what was to come in *An Revoir Les Enfants*, which was pondered for 40 years, but took just two weeks to write.

Explaining the film's long gestation, Malle said: "I was very scared I would not do it



A scene from Louis Malle's latest film *An Revoir Les Enfants* (Goodbye Children). It has been nominated for an Oscar in the best foreign film category.

right and then I would have hated myself."

"When I got older I started thinking maybe this is something I should do just to pass it on. Then in the '70s I started working on it and I didn't know how to handle the script and I

put it aside."

But in the mid-1980s the idea crystallised and he dashed off the script in the summer of 1986. "I showed it to friends and they encouraged me," the director beamed at the end of the movie's New York premiere.

At a reception afterwards, he seemed elated and at peace, as if *An Revoir Les Enfants* had been the release of 40 years' anger and sadness.

His cheer contrasted starkly with the gloom of the audience, many of whom, transfixed and solemn, lingered in their seats after the curtain fell.

"We're offering them champagne and no one wants to drink," he smiled, pleased that the film had had its intended effect.

## Sympathetic

The movie was selected as Best Foreign Film in 1987 by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, won the top award at the Venice Film Festival and received nine nominations for Oscars (French Oscars). It is also an Oscar nominee for best foreign film.

The film follows Julien Quentin (Gaspard Manesse), who represents the 12-year-old Malle, through two winter weeks at the boarding school, where pranks, prayer, air raids,

rationing and Quentin's stormy friendship with his classmate, reflect some of Malle's most acute memories.

"The classmate was called Jean Bonnet by sympathetic French priests at Petit College D'Avon, who knew the child was using a false name to conceal his identity."

His real name was Hans Helmut Michel and he died at Auschwitz soon after he, two other students and an anti-Nazi priest were seized from Petit College, 50 miles (80 kms) south of Paris, on January 15, 1944.

The two boys died at the same concentration camp in southern Poland. The French Resistance priest died in hospital a week after he was liberated from Mathausen camp in Austria in 1945.

Malle pieced together the story from his own research, that of other classmates and the Paris centre for Jewish documentation, which investigates the fate of French Jews who disappeared during the Holocaust.

What Malle did not know as he wrote good-bye to Bonnet was that he would never see his friend again. "We only knew he was in great danger," Malle said. "We found out in 1945 at the end of the war that they weren't coming back."

By that time, Malle, the sheltered son of a sugar heiress, had learned much about violence and prejudice in the world.

Remembering his adolescence, Malle dedicated *An Revoir Les Enfants* to his own children, two of whom are close in age to Quentin, the age when youngsters' faith in the world of adults may begin to weaken.

He said he was considering shooting a sequel to *Les Enfants*, which would go on to recount the tragic fate of the priest and the three boys, and show what happened to him after the Nazis closed the school down.

"But I don't think it will ever have the impact, the power of this particular story," Malle added.

## 33-year-old literary classic finally appears on screen

By Andrew Geller

NEW YORK. (Reuter): In 1955, Brian Moore, a 27-year-old Irish journalist working in Montreal wrote a first novel about a woman who loses her last chance for marriage and happiness.

Although *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne* was hailed as a classic it was not the stuff of commercial films — even though a half-dozen Hollywood directors considered it and John Huston wanted to cast Katherine Hepburn in the title role.

Now, after 33 years and with financial help from George Harrison and Elton John, writer-producer Peter Nelson has brought the book to the screen, but with a new, more upbeat ending that has angered some critics.

Although the film — and its stars Maggie Smith and Bob Hoskins — has received many good reviews, Time magazine described the ending as a cliché and the Los Angeles Times said it blunted the novel's impact. Moore himself admitted the ending was weak.

But Nelson insists it was absolutely necessary and dismisses the criticism as "a lot of nonsense."

The film, which opens in Europe this month, is set in Dublin in the 1950s. Judith Hearne is a spinster in her late 40s, who after spending her best years caring for an aunt, now lives in a succession of dreary bed-sitting rooms, dreaming of love and finding solace in religion and the bottle.

As the film opens, she is moving into yet another boarding house, putting up the picture of her aunt and the little painting of Jesus Christ that make the room a home.

She develops a romantic interest in the landlady's brother, James Madden (played by Hoskins), who has returned to Ireland after 30 years in the hotel business in New York — as a doorman.

Madden thinks Hearne's prim, ladylike manner and her

aunt's ruby rings indicate she has money and wants her to invest in a fast-food restaurant with him.

When he reveals that his interest is solely financial, Hearne falls apart. She tears at the doors of a tabernacle, demanding that God reveal his presence. With her dream shattered, her faith also is destroyed.

Hearne goes on a binge and ends up in a nursing home.

The book ends with her going through the ritual of putting up her pictures.

## Conclusion

But in the film conclusion, Hearne rejects Madden's overtures to resume their relationship, realising she can do without him.

Nelson, who had longed to make the film since the book was published and emptied his pension fund to buy the rights, insists he had to change it.

"It's a hopeful ending. It's not a happy ending... If you go through a searing experience,

you get insight... if you don't have that insight, that something changing, the character turning a small corner, it becomes a case history."

Moore, one of nine children of a Belfast doctor, was 27 when he quit his job as a Montreal Gazette reporter, deciding it was now or never for writing fiction. He wrote *Judith Hearne* in a cabin in the Laurentian mountains.

"It was turned down by 12 American publishers as being too depressing. It was instantly bought when submitted to an English publisher, who also said it was depressing but thought I had a future so he published it," he recalled.

"It got published in England to terrific reviews, which I was unaware of being such an innocent, then the Americans all wanted to publish it — the same people who had turned it down," Moore said.

Critics hailed the book as a classic. Though never a best-seller, it has remained in print.



Maggie Smith and Bob Hoskins star in *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne*.

## BBC TV scores again with World War II soap opera

Fortunes of War is the latest in a series of dramatised novels made popular by British television.

By Sylvia Clayton

BRITISH television has established a worldwide reputation for best selling arts and drama programmes. The most outstanding successes have been in the genre known as quality serials, adaptations of major novels by British writers. To the surprise of some international television executives, these have proved capable of attracting mass audiences in many countries.

The latest in the field, "Fortunes of War" — adapted from six novels by Olivia Manning which make up "The Balkan Trilogy" and "The Levant Trilogy" — follows such successes as "Brideshead Revisited", dramatised from the novel by Evelyn Waugh, and "The Jewel in the Crown", a serialisation of Paul Scott's "The Raj Quartet".

These serials have in common a strong narrative, exotic locations opulently filmed, and a cast drawn from arguably the finest reservoir of acting talent anywhere. Often they relate to personal experiences. "Brideshead Revisited" was full of nostalgia for Waugh's undergraduate days at Oxford in the years before World War II; Scott's books looked back on his service in India.

"Fortunes of War" is closely linked to Olivia Manning's own life in World War II, when she was married to R.D. (Reggie) Smith, a British Council lecturer posted in 1939 to Bucharest, Romania. Her two trilogies, published in the 1960s and 70s, placed her in the front rank of post-war women writers alongside Muriel Spark, Iris Murdoch and Doris Lessing. She was awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1976 for services to literature, and died in 1980.

From the opening shots of the Orient Express, then a magnificent steam train, the Olivia Manning serial looks elegant and shows a keen sense of period and local colour. It

traces the path of a young English lecturer and his wife, Guy and Harriet Pringle, as they move from Bucharest, with its raffish cafe society and Nazi overtones, through an Athens under Italian Fascist attack to cosmopolitan Cairo, Egypt, awaiting the outcome of significant desert battles.

To film such a wide ranging story on location — the temples of Luxor, the Pyramids, a splendid early 20th century hotel in Damascus, Syria, the Acropolis of Athens and the tavernas on the hillside below, and desert itself — naturally proved expensive. Production costs, estimated at £6.5 million, were shared with the United States company WGBH of Boston, Massachusetts.

## Exotic

Against this exotic backdrop the Pringles' edgy, affectionate marriage is observed. Guy is an extrovert idealist who helps lame dogs at the risk of neglecting Harriet. She is quiet, watchful and sometimes spiky, but cares deeply for Guy and is jealous of his love for humanity.

With their mixture of warmth and understatement the Pringles are a very English couple. Previous serials have shown that this Englishness is not a drawback: foreign audiences often enjoy a change of flavour when the characters are defined by excellent acting.

James Cellan Jones, an experienced director best known for his skilful handling of adaptations from Henry James, chose Emma Thompson, 28, for the central role of Harriet. Her previous experience lay mainly in musicals and cabaret but her cool intelligence fits the part exactly.

As Guy, Kenneth Branagh has a more difficult task since it is widely recognised that the character closely resembles Reggie Smith, Olivia Manning's husband. Reggie, who later became a well known BBC radio producer, was a genial bear of a man, nearly two



Emma Thompson plays Harriet, the central character in the TV serial *Fortunes of War*.

metres tall. Branagh is slight of stature but expresses Guy's charisma through his marvellously flexible, sympathetic voice. Critics have hailed him as the finest stage Henry V since Laurence Olivier played the great Shakespearean king.

Olivia Manning, whose novels have been adapted by Alan Plater, constructs around the Pringles a kaleidoscope of friends, acquaintances, events and environments. The opening episodes, portraying uneasy Bucharest in the autumn of 1939, are enlivened by the presence of Prince Yakimov, an ageing half-Irish, half Russian command in a tattered fur coat which is allegedly a present to his father from the late Tsar. This is a bravura performance by the celebrated Shakespearean actor Ronald Pickup.

The memorable characters in the novels are all brought vividly to life. There is Professor Lord Pinkrose, a vain, irascible academic, obsessed with delivering his lecture on the poet Lord Byron regardless of the war and played with comic fussiness by Alan Bennett, the stage and television playwright.

Charles Kay and James Villiers, two of Britain's most

polished character actors, are cast as officials from the British Embassy and the British Council, and give their roles a clamorous precision. Castlebar, the alcoholic poet, is played flamboyantly by Robert Stephens, who has just appeared in Steven Spielberg's film "The Empire of the Sun", about the war against Japan.

Esmond Knight gave his last performance in this serial as the cheerfully dotty and expatriate Mr Liverage. This remarkable actor was blinded while serving in the Royal Navy in World War II but had a long and varied career until his death just before "Fortunes of War" was completed.

## Complex

The producer in charge of the immensely complex filming of this serial was Betty Willingale, also responsible for producing Scott Fitzgerald's "Tender is the Night".

The viewing figures and the appreciation index for "Fortunes of War" in Britain throughout its seven-week run were high. It is felt at the BBC that justice was done to what Anthony Burgess described as "the finest fictional record of World War II by a British writer".

## Low-budget films win US audiences

By Philippe Naughton

LONDON. (Reuter): British film producer David Puttnam once framed a letter he received from Hollywood.

"I'm sorry to tell you this has no validity in the American market place because of the style and tone as well as the subject matter," it read.

This was *Chariots of Fire*, Puttnam's 1981 tale of athletic prowess and moral courage. Made for only six million dollars, it subsequently won four Oscars, including Best Picture, and grossed 160 million dollars at the box office.

A growing number of film companies around the world have followed Puttnam's example, realising that small-to-medium-budget (four to eight million dollars) European features like *Wish You Were Here* or *Monsi Lisa* can be successful in North America, despite, or maybe because of, their non-American tone and subject matter.

One such is Carolco a US-based film company that opened up a London office six months ago. In the United States Carolco was responsible for the highly successful Rambo film starring Sylvester Stallone. Once in Europe the company

promptly bought the world rights to *Pathfinder*, a story set in Lapland of a young boy who sets out to avenge the death of his family at hands of a ferocious warrior-tribe.

European film-makers have long had to work with tight budgets by "pre-selling" the North American distribution rights (cinema, video, television) to the films they are planning to make.

According to Andrew James of accountants Touche, Ross and Company, who run a kind of clearing house in London matching film-makers with investors, pre-sales can ensure a film's success.

Credibility give you credibility, they show the banks that people in the industry have confidence in the film," he said. "and any film that make an impact in America will have a much better chance of making money."

For the British film industry, however, it could be that current success is a direct result of past crisis.

"Whenever it's more difficult to raise finance for film-making, the cream tends to rise to the top," said Canadian John Durie of the sales company, a London firm that markets the

worldwide rights to films produced by independent British film-production companies.

"Five years ago it would have been virtually impossible to pre-sell British films with no names in them, but now North American audiences are looking for something more than a comic-book hero. They're looking for a different type of film-making... British films, once they find their audience, do very well."

Not that the days of the Hollywood blockbuster are over.

The commercial success of low-budget foreign films with North American audiences still tends to be limited to "art houses" in major cities.

"We're just riding on the crest of a wave," Durie says.

But Kenneth Rive, who buys the rights to "specialist" films for international film company Cannon, believes the success of foreign films in North America might well continue.

"It is a very limited market, but, on the bottom line, they can offer a better margin than film produced for millions and millions of dollars," he said.

Rive disagrees, however, that the North American audience has changed: "they were never immature, the films just haven't been there," he said.

And has Hollywood woken up to this new demand?

Five years after he received that dismissive letter from Hollywood, Puttnam was made chief executive of Columbia Pictures, the first "outsider" ever to become head of a major Hollywood studio.

Hired as a man with firm and well-known views about the lavish salaries of Hollywood stars and producers, he vowed to reduce budgets, from an average of 17 million dollars per film to around 12 million.

But those views and his occasionally strident style did not endear Puttnam to the agents and dealmakers of Hollywood. In September 1987, after just 15 months at the top, he announced his resignation.

"To some, I came to whisper at dragons and tilt at windmills," he said in his resignation address. "But the truth is, I am neither Saint George nor Don Quixote. I am just a European motion-picture producer who crossed the Atlantic to ask a few questions and possibly seek a different way forward."

Puttnam will soon be back-making low-budget films in his native Britain.

And in Hollywood, no doubt, it will be business as normal. Big will still be beautiful.

## Ford: so far, so good

By Cathy Burke

NEW YORK. (UPI): Harrison Ford says he wants the movies he does to be successful. For the most part, he's succeeded.

Ford appeared in five of the most successful films of all times — *Star Wars* and its two sequels, as adventurer Indiana Jones in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*. He also won acclaim as the Philadelphia police officer hiding out in Amish country in *Witness*.

However, his appearance in the critically acclaimed *The Mosquito Coast* did less than bravo business at the box office.

But this serious actor — who admits he doesn't much like to go to movies and is anything but a financial success. His salary for *Star Wars*, he said, was \$1,000 week — a drop in the bucket when compared with what the movie eventually

earned for its producers.

"What I mean is that film is an effort at communication. And if it's not successful at that, your efforts are for naught. It's just not as satisfying," Ford said during a break during the filming of a new Mike Nichols movie.

"I've been in good films. I've done good work. But I can see ways of improving. I have to do better," he said.

"It's not hard to imagine that the actor who played Indiana Jones and Han Solo might aspire to greater things."

"I knew it was a watershed experience," Ford said of the *Star Wars* phenomenon. "And it made me happy. But I was in no way prepared or silly enough to take it seriously."

Film history's biggest plums didn't drop in his lap. An actor since 1964, he endured a 12-year period of working as a carpenter by trade and plying his acting talents on "episodic television... determined to hold out for a film role, so I wouldn't

wear out my face on welcome on television."

"I packed up my tools just before *Star Wars*," he said.

His latest film to open nationwide leaves behind some of the more heroic characters that Ford has brought to life on screen.

In the new Roman Polanski-directed film, *Frantic*, Ford plays an ordinary man pushed to extraordinary limits — Dr Richard Walker, a heart surgeon, whose wife is mysteriously kidnapped while they are in Paris at a medical convention. "I think he represents a character that is sympathetic to the audience," Ford said of his character.

Yet, the project was an artistic challenge. "Romans' very clear, very definite about what he wants," Ford said. "But I think we have a degree of respect that allows" a degree of give-and-take on an idea or scene, he said.

Polanski, the controversial



Luck seems to be holding for Harrison Ford.

director whose legal problems prevent him from returning to the United States, recently said of Ford, "I have told him that someday he will be a fine director, and I will act in one of his pictures."

Ford disagrees. "Directing. No. It's too hard. It takes too long. A director's day is 25 hours long," Ford said, but added, "I enjoyed working with Polanski because I thought of myself as part of the film making team."



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## KIO bids to increase holdings in Spanish firm

MADRID, March 18, (Reuters): Spain's second biggest food company would enter a costly battle if it decided to contest a Kuwaiti investment office (KIO) bid to control it, Spanish share analysts said yesterday.

KIO, which oversees the investment of Kuwait's petrodollar income, is offering 30,000 pesetas (\$268) a share to boost its stake in Ebro Compania De Azucar y Alcoboles Sato 51 per cent from 20 per cent.

Ebro's board only owns two per cent of the stock, and analysts say it would have to pay 40 billion pesetas (350 million) for a further 50 per cent to block KIO.

Ebro shares traded at 19,000 pesetas (\$170) on Monday. Bourse authorities decided to suspend trading in them on Tuesday.

### Price

Sources close to KIO said the high price on its bid was aimed at blocking an Ebro counter-offer.

Ebro controls one-third of the Spanish sugar market and has stakes of 50 per cent and 33 per cent respectively in two other sugar companies, Azucarera Ciudad Real and Azucarera De Carpio.

Under Spanish law, companies are obliged to launch a tender offer if they build up a stake of more than 24.9 per cent in another company. KIO bought its share of Ebro last December, and said at the time it planned to increase this but did not have its eyes on a takeover.

### Investments

KIO's \$2.2 billion of Spanish investments include a 12.5 per cent interest in the country's biggest bank, Banco Central which it shares with a large Spanish construction company. Through a paper company it controls, KIO has about 20 per cent of two of Spain's main chemical companies, Union Explosivos Rio Tinto SA and Cros SA.

Oil and gas will continue to meet more than 55pc of energy needs

## Energy meeting urges economic diversification

BAGHDAD, March 18, (Reuters): An Arab energy conference on Thursday urged Arab states to conserve energy and diversify their economies to cut dependence on oil and gas.

A statement at the end of the four-day meeting, which took place amid Iranian missile attacks on the Iraqi capital, also pledged support for Iraq in its 7-1/2-year-old war with Iran and urged the international community to implement a United Nations ceasefire call.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al-Chalabi, the conference president, told a closing session the presence of some 500 participants from 19 countries was an expression of Arab support.

The final communique urged "rationalisation of domestic energy consumption and growth of non-oil economic sectors" to spare Arab economies damage from oil price fluctuations.

Most Arab economies plunged into recession when world oil prices began to decline in 1982, crippling development spending and foreign aid.

The Arab world owns nearly 60 per cent of world crude oil reserves and depends heavily on oil revenue to finance state spending.

But 90 per cent of the oil wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few Gulf Arab states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and the UAE.

Experts warned that without

greater cooperation between the oil-rich and oil-poor and alternatives to oil and gas, many Arab states will face serious energy shortages in the next century.

Already, 11 of 21 Arab states are net importers of refined oil products while domestic Arab energy consumption is growing by an average five per cent annually.

### Requirements

Oil and gas will continue to meet more than 55 per cent of energy requirements even beyond this century, the director general of the Institut Francais Du Petrole said at the conference.

Contributing to a panel discussion on production and pricing policies, J. C. Balaceanu said

oil would be earmarked more and more for its irreplaceable uses such as transportation, petrochemicals and fuels in developing countries.

Dr R.K. Pachauri, president of the International Association of Energy Economists, said energy demand in developing countries would increase from 14 per cent to 23 per cent of world total consumption.

### Resources

The vast reserves of natural gas in Arab countries might lead to enhancing cooperation between neighbouring countries, he said.

He called for the establishment of an energy research centre bringing together Asia, the Middle East and Africa as a step towards

cooperation between oil exporting and importing countries.

Abdul Latif Al-Hamad, director general of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, said the increase in Arab oil revenues from \$23.8 billion in 1973 to 212.4 billion in 1980 had made possible the construction of projects, including infrastructure, and improvement in education and communications.

Many oil-importing developing countries had benefited from the financial growth of oil-exporting countries, he added. He said total Arab assistance to Arab and non-Arab developing countries reached \$9.5 billion in 1980, but dropped to 3.6 billion in 1985 due to oil price fluctuations.

## Exports decline

## US trade deficit widens slightly

WASHINGTON, March 18, (Reuters): The government yesterday reported a slight increase in the US trade deficit for January, but economists said the country was still riding an export boom that should help narrow the gap.

Americans spent \$12.44 billion more on imported goods than they exported in January, slightly more than the 12.20 billion December deficit, the Commerce Department said.

It was the first time the country's trade gap, which was a record \$171.22 billion last year, had widened since October when it soared to a monthly record of 17.63 billion.

### Increase

But the increase was less than most economists had expected and administration officials expressed satisfaction, saying the deficit would tend to continue shrinking.

"In the last three months, we have seen a dramatic drop in the trade deficit," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. "Today's numbers for January show that trend is continuing."

After anxiously awaiting the report, financial markets showed little reaction. The dollar and stock prices were little changed after it was issued, while bond prices rose.

### Increase

"There is obviously a long way to go to eliminate the trade deficit," said Commerce Secretary William Verity. "But we are on the right track."

Verity and private economists blamed the slight increase in the deficit on seasonal factors which tend to depress exports in January.

Exports declined 10 per cent in January to \$34.77 billion, but were 33 per cent greater than they were a year earlier. Declines in exports of manufactured goods, agricultural products and coal accounted for much of the drop.

David Wyss, senior vice president of Data Resources of Lexington, Massachusetts, said exports often declined in January because bad weather could delay shipments.

"The setback in January is

only seasonal," said Wyss. "I think it's good news, even though it's a slight widening of the deficit."

Administration officials are counting on growth in exports to drive the country's record-long economic expansion through the November election. A strong economy at election time would be seen as helping the Republican candidate.

### Factors

Imports, which usually rise in January because of seasonal factors, fell surprising six per cent to \$34.77 billion as Americans bought fewer foreign manufactured goods. Imports of foreign cars fell \$677 million.

Some economists had feared that the unexpected strength of consumer spending, which has slowed less than many expected after the stock market crash, and rapid rate at which jobs are being created would spur more demand for foreign goods.

While it is too soon to tell for sure, Wyss said consumers appeared to be shopping more at home and shopping less.

"It looks to me like they're buying more American goods," he said. "And the consumer is slowing down."

But the nation's oil bill rose 1.5 per cent to \$3.63 billion in January despite a decline of more than one dollar per barrel in its average price, as the amount of foreign oil flowing into the country rose by 7.6 per cent.

The surplus in agricultural trade fell to \$817 million in January from \$1.1 billion in December. But the country's deficit of manufactured goods shrank to \$11.66 billion from 12.69 billion in December.

"It's getting to the point where we're just going to start supplying more of what we consume," said economist Thomas Carpenter of ASB Capital Management Inc., a money management subsidiary of American Security Bank.

"Foreigners are going to increasingly shop (with) us," he said.

"The improvement versus our trading partners was broad-based and it was in the right places," he added.

## Bonn set to excuse Third World from \$1.6b debt

BONN, March 18, (Reuters): West Germany is ready to excuse the poorest Third World countries about 2.5 billion marks (\$1.6 billion) of their debt to it, Overseas Development Minister Hans Klein said today.

Klein told reporters the government also planned to channel most future aid through outright grants instead of credits that must be paid back.

### Plan

He said the cabinet agreed in principle on the debt relief plan but had yet to decide on precise amounts involved for the various nations, which would include Bangladesh and Haiti.

Bonn also will work for better credit terms for aid recipients, Klein said.

He gave no more details. West Germany has previously wiped out 4.2 billion marks (\$2.53 billion) to debt owed by Third World states.

A government report on development aid released after today's cabinet meeting said the spread of AIDS in some Third World countries was likely to hit efforts to modernise.

## World Business Summary

### Singapore hopes to boost trade relations with India

SINGAPORE, March 18, (Xinhua): Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has said that he is optimistic about considerable opportunities for more trade and stronger economic ties between Singapore and India, according to a local TV report. With outward economic policies and economic growth, Lee said, India could be one of Singapore's top ten trading partners.

He said trade development agencies of both governments can reinforce private sector initiatives by holding more trade missions and joint promotions. The commerce chambers of the two countries have decided to form a "joint business cooperation committee" to improve two-way trade, joint marketing and joint ventures, among other things, he said.

Singapore can offer experience in low-cost housing, oil and gas exploration services, and port and telecommunications infrastructure, while India has a tremendous industrial output which should find its way into the Southeast Asian and Singapore markets, Lee said.

### Oil production-sharing contracts

JAKARTA, Indonesia, March 18, (AP): The state-owned oil company Pertamina signed oil production-sharing contracts yesterday with Esso Musi Inc. and Mobil Musi Inc. and with Esso Java Inc. and Mobil Rembang Inc. all of the United States. The contracts were signed by W. A. Moffet, president and general manager of Stanvac Indonesia Inc., J. L. Wildhaber, director of Stanvac, Abdul Rachman Ramlly, director of Pertamina, and Minister of Mines and Energy Suharto. Stanvac is a subsidiary of the New Jersey-based Esso and New York-based Mobil. Under one contract, Esso Musi and Mobil Musi will explore in a 1,310 square kilometre (506 square mile) area in Musi-Kiling, South Sumatra. Under the other, Esso Java and Mobil Rembang will explore in an 8,190 square kilometre (3,162 square mile) area in Tuban, East Java.

Production is to be split 85 per cent for Pertamina and 15 per cent for the foreign contractors for oil and 70 per cent for Pertamina and 30 per cent for the foreign companies for gas.

Esso Musi and Mobil Musi are to invest \$5 million in two years for exploration, and Esso Java and Mobil Rembang are to invest \$15 million in six years.

### S. Korean overseas investments top \$1b

SEOUL, South Korea, March 18, (AP): Investment by South Korean companies in overseas equity projects since 1962 reached an aggregate sum of \$1.005 billion as of the end of February, the Finance Ministry reported today.

It was the first time the cumulative tally has topped \$1 billion, ministry officials said. About one-third of the total investment was based in the United States in the form of manufacturing and other projects, they said.

South Korean investment abroad has increased significantly over the past two years, the officials said. About \$157 million was invested in 1986 and 397 million in 1987, they said. Ministry statistics showed that foreign equity investment in South Korea since 1962 reached an aggregate \$3.92 billion after deducting withdrawals over the same period, by the end of January.



## CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### For Subscription in Issue No. (8) for Treasury Bills Authorised by Decree Law No. ( 50 ) of 1987

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of TREASURY BEARER BILLS in Kuwaiti Dinar for SUBSCRIPTION in compliance with the following Rules and Regulations:

#### 1. AMOUNT OF ISSUE:

The Amount of this Issue is **KD 100** million distributed over THREE Denominations as follows:  
KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500 000

#### 2. ISSUE DATE : 23 / 3 / 1988

#### 3. DUE DATE : 22 / 6 / 1988

#### 4. OFFERING PERIOD:

From: Saturday 19 / 3 / 1988  
To : Tuesday 22 / 3 / 1988

#### 5. ALLOTMENT: 23 / 3 / 1988

#### 6. DELIVERY OF BILLS:

From: Saturday 26 / 3 / 1988  
To : Monday 28 / 3 / 1988

7. The Provisions of this Issue shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### For Subscription in Issue No. (8) for Treasury Bonds Authorised by Decree Law No. ( 50 ) of 1987

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of TREASURY BEARER BONDS in Kuwaiti Dinar for SUBSCRIPTION in compliance with the following Rules and Regulations:

#### 1. AMOUNT OF ISSUE:

The Amount of this Issue is **KD 50** million distributed over FIVE Denominations as follows:  
KD 1 000, KD 10 000, KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500,000

#### 2. ISSUE DATE: 30 / 3 / 1988

#### 3. AMOUNTS, TERMS OF BONDS AND INTEREST RATES:

ONE-YEAR BONDS for KD 50 million Due on Thursday 30 / 3 / 1989,  
Interest Rate of 5 1/4% per annum,  
to be paid at the end of every six months from Issue Date.

#### 4. OFFERING PERIOD:

From: Saturday 19 / 3 / 1988  
To : Tuesday 22 / 3 / 1988

#### 5. ALLOTMENT: 23 / 3 / 1988

#### 6. DELIVERY OF BONDS:

From: Saturday 2 / 4 / 1988  
To : Monday 4 / 4 / 1988

7. The Provisions of this Issue shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bonds, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.



## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LONDON  
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	CHG
ABBEY LFE	265.00	
ADT LTO	117.00	
ALO LYONS	379.00	
ANSTRAD	170.00	
ARGYLL GP	205.00	
ASDA GP	179.50	
BAA PP	118.00	
BTR	259.20	
BAT INDS	455.00	
BARCLAYS	490.00	
BASS	665.00	
BEAZER	187.00	
BEECHAMS	468.00	
BET ORD	243.00	
BICC PLC	332.00	
BLUE ARW	124.00	
BLUE CIRC	462.00	
BOC GP	386.00	
BOOTS CO	229.00	
SPB INDS	293.00	
BR COW	1306.00	
BR ARWAY	178.00	
BR AEROSP	375.00	
BR GAS PP	139.00	
B.P.	280.00	
B.P. NEW	82.00	
BR TELCOM	259.00	
BRITOL	520.00	
BUNZL	175.00	
BURMAN OL	520.00	
BURTON	262.00	
CABLESWIR	346.00	
CADBURYS	268.00	
COATS VTY	243.00	
COMM UNI	345.00	
CONS GOLD	950.00	
COOKSONS	576.00	
COURTAULD	329.00	
DALGETY	291.00	
DEE CP	186.00	
DIOWIS	191.00	
ENGR CHINA	398.00	
ENTER OIL	358.00	
FERRANTI	86.00	
FIOWS	262.00	
GEN ACCIO	921.00	
GEN ELEC	155.00	
GLAXO	980.00	
GRANDAD	335.00	
GLOBE	142.00	
GRAND MET	496.00	
GUS A	140.00	
GLARO RYL	940.00	
OKN	339.00	
GUINNESS	316.00	
HUMPHRES	580.00	
HANSON	140.00	
HAKER SIO	495.00	
HILLSDOWN	292.00	
ICI	960.00	
INI	210.50	

LONDON  
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	375.00	370.00
APV PLC	130.00	130.00
AM NEW	264.00	265.00
ARROWSON	132.00	135.00
AN NLD	265.00	267.00
ADDISON	99.00	99.00
ADVEST	313.00	313.00
ALEX WRMV	179.00	180.00
ALLO IR B	218.00	215.00
ALLIANCE	808.00	810.00
ALLO COLL	139.00	139.00
ALLO PLINT	54.00	54.00
AMARI	174.00	175.00
AMEC	363.00	365.00
AMER TRST	117.00	119.00
AMERSHAM	489.00	489.00
AMGLIA TV	409.00	413.00
ANSBACHER	67.00	66.00
APP HOL	311.00	312.00
APPROYARD	396.00	397.00
APRICOT	110.00	111.00
ARM EMER	75.00	77.00
ARLINGTON	204.00	205.00
ARMSTRONG	151.00	152.00
ANGLO O'S	208.00	209.00
AQUAS.A.	73.00	73.00
ASHLEY LA	117.00	119.00
ATTWOODS	295.00	296.00
AUTO SEC	251.00	251.00
AVIS EUR	335.00	336.00
AVON RUBB	638.00	635.00
BSG INTL	61.00	61.00
BAILL JAP	480.00	480.00
BAIKER IT	70.00	71.00
BE OF SCO	562.00	562.00
BARKER DO	145.00	145.00
BART DEV	200.00	201.00
B.M.WILLI	167.00	168.00
BEJAM GP	184.00	184.00
BELHAVEN	43.00	44.00
BELLWAY	233.00	233.00
BENROX HD	58.00	59.00
BENNETT +F	34.00	34.00
BENTALLS	197.00	198.00
BENEFORD	305.00	302.00
BENKLEY	350.00	350.00
BIRKLEY	24.00	24.00
BLEK LE 2	20.00	20.00
BOASE MAS	289.00	291.00
BOODINGTN	143.00	143.00
BOOKER	397.00	397.00
BORTHWICK	47.00	47.00
BOUATER	300.00	300.00
BORTHORPE	181.00	181.00
BRAMMER	229.00	231.00
BRENT CKE	139.00	139.00
BRENT UKR	363.00	363.00
BRIDAN	146.00	147.00
BRITANNIC	65.00	66.00
BR ASSETS	65.00	66.00

## NEW YORK

NAME	OPEN	MID	CLOSE
A.B. ELECT	375.00	370.00	375.00
APV PLC	130.00	130.00	130.00
AM NEW	264.00	265.00	264.00
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AMGLIA TV	409.00	413.00	409.00
ANSBACHER	67.00	66.00	67.00
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APRICOT	110.00	111.00	110.00
ARM EMER	75.00	77.00	75.00
ARLINGTON	204.00	205.00	204.00
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BIRKLEY	24.00	24.00	24.00
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BLEK LE 2	20.00	20.00	20.00
BOASE MAS	289.00	291.00	289.00
BOODINGTN	143.00	143.00	14



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## Gulf banks' foreign assets growing

## Privatisation move likely to pick up steam

THE private sectors in the Gulf are being called upon to take more of a lead in the current development phase. The Gulf governments are encouraging the private sectors to build on the region's infrastructural base, move into sophisticated services and take a more positive stance towards investment in the productive sectors, especially small to medium sized industries, according to GIB monthly financial report.

Privatisation of government owned assets will further be pursued with a number of commercially viable enterprises offered to the public in the coming few years.

**Investment**  
Although the private sector's own financial assets are substantial, new private sector activities will continue to be supported by a sizeable flow of long term credit from specialised institutions in the region, especially industrial development funds and banks.

These institutions provide as well numerous market research and feasibility studies to help identify viable investment opportunities.

Private sector investment is also encouraged by procurement practices of government bodies that emphasise sales of locally produced commodities.

Tax and tariff incentives are also available. In certain cases, tariffs can go up to 25 per cent to provide protection for local industries.

While less than 30 per cent of the region's gross domestic product (GDP) is believed to have been generated by the private sector in 1980, the percentage is estimated to have increased to an average of around 36 per cent in 1986.

The increase is partially due to the decline in oil GDP accruing to the public sector.

The privatisation trend, expected to pick-up momentum in the coming few years, will also contribute towards a higher percentage of the domestic product being accounted for by the private sectors. Private consumption as a percentage of total consumption was on the rise in the various Gulf countries.

In Saudi Arabia for example, the percentage was close to 52 per cent in 1986 up from 49 per cent in 1982, and in Oman it was 55

Net Foreign Assets of Gulf Commercial Banks (US\$ Million)						
	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987*
Bahrain	952	1,250	1,159	1,560	1,847	1,624
Kuwait	7,797	7,865	8,236	7,714	7,453	7,831
Oman	66	98	107	81	79	65
Qatar	1,271	1,059	1,726	1,918	1,983	2,103
Saudi Arabia	17,758	17,848	18,808	19,385	23,146	23,660
UAE	9,548	9,538	12,100	12,070	13,475	NA
GCC Total	37,393	37,658	42,138	42,730	47,985	-

\* Mid year figures

Source: IMF International Financial Statistics, January 1987.

per cent in 1986 compared to 52 per cent in 1982. Private investment as a percentage of total fixed capital formation has also been on the rise in the last few years, reaching 44 per cent in 1986 for Saudi Arabia up from 29 per cent in 1982. In Bahrain this percentage rose to 69 per cent in 1986 up from 63 per cent in 1982. The corresponding figures for Oman and Kuwait were also up compared to 1982.

**Slowdown**

After more than five years of economic slowdown, expectations of the private sectors in the region are still running low.

The lack of investment opportunities of the region that businesses traditionally found in the 70s, discouraging performance of some of the existing industrial plants, the relatively high unit costs of production, the limited pool of highly skilled manpower and the less developed financial and legal environment are some of the constraints facing Gulf private investors.

**Constraints**

Other problems adversely affecting overall private sector confidence include the existence of substantial excess capacity in certain sectors, the falling domestic demand, the decline in purchasing power, the squeeze of local credit by commercial banks, the narrowing profit margins and the strong competition from imported products which local consumers tend to prefer.

Nevertheless, these constraints are not insurmountable and many are over-exaggerated. Private sector opportunities can be defined and made more com-

mercially viable if Gulf investors change their mercantile attitude of short term profit generation and take along term view of the region.

They need to have the willingness to invest domestically and be prepared to commit themselves today to establishing a productive base for future market growth.

The optimum time to invest is when the market reached a trough, when incentives are high and there is a clear commitment on the part of the government to promote certain economic activities.

**Funds**

A well conceived and managed enterprise, whether in industry, agriculture or services, which can identify a niche for itself in the market place could find the region fertile soil in which to grow and flourish.

The ingredients of success remain here as elsewhere, imagination, strategy, management, marketing and commitment.

Private business in the Gulf has in the last fifteen years accumulated an enormous amount of wealth in the region and abroad. There are substantial funds deposited with Gulf banks that have been invested overseas.

According to IMF statistics, net foreign assets of Gulf commercial banks were close to \$48 billion by the end of 1986. The amount is estimated to be marginally higher than last year.

Since 1975, total oil revenues for the six GCC countries are estimated to have exceeded \$1,000 billion.

Most of the money was spent domestically mainly on infrastructure and basic industries.

If we assume that around \$200 billion are the accumulated net foreign reserves of the region's public sectors and that three quarters of what has been spent went totally to finance imports of goods and services (which includes payment for foreign contractors and repatriation of expatriate workers remittances), that leaves about \$200 billion in national hands.

Close to one quarter of this amount is held by the private sector in Gulf financial institutions (claims to private sector in all GCC commercial banks in 1986 were around \$49.2 billion, leaving close to \$150 billion unaccounted for and believed to be held by Gulf private sectors in various forms of assets outside the region).

**Aim**

The aim here is not to estimate the actual amount of these foreign assets, but rather to point to the sizeable wealth held by the private sector both domestically and abroad.

The rough estimate of \$150 billion is more than twice the total of GCC budgets for this year and could make quite an impact on the Gulf economies even if only part of it is repatriated for domestic investment.

While most GCC governments have been dis-saving in the last few years (public expenditures exceeding public revenues), private savings have become the most significant component of national savings available for domestic investments.

For the three Gulf countries where data on savings trends is available, the ratio of private to national savings in Bahrain rose from 29 per cent in 1982 to 36 per cent in 1985 and from 55 per cent to 77 per cent in Kuwait.

In the case of the UAE, where the government recorded negative savings in these years, private sector savings were 106 per cent of national savings in 1982 and 108 per cent in 1985.

The same trend is believed to be true as well for the other Gulf countries.

In Saudi Arabia, actual government expenditures exceeded public revenues by \$6.8 billion, \$12.3 billion and \$13.4 billion in

the fiscal years 1983/84, 1984/85 and 1986/87 respectively.

No figures on actual public expenditures and revenues are available for 1987, but Saudi budgets for that year and for 1988 project deficits of \$14 billion and \$9.6 billion respectively.

Oman recorded actual deficits throughout the period 1982-1987 while Qatar's public expenditures exceeded public revenues in the fiscal years 1985/86 and 1986/87.

**Declines**

Various Gulf countries recorded declines in their private savings in the last few years. The main reason has been the shrinking disposable income due to the overall economic slowdown and the rampant capital outflow which characterised this period.

The limited number of commercially viable investment projects in the region, the lower domestic interest rates compared to those on the US dollar, and the underdeveloped capital markets in the Gulf have also contributed to this trend.

Not only did Gulf private sectors accumulate huge reserves abroad that have not yet been properly utilised for domestic investment, but the drain on national savings continues unabated.

The private sectors, undoubtedly do have the ability to play a larger role in the national economies if they choose to do so.

Financing future domestic investments would require repatriating only part of the overseas assets held by the private sector, and/or using the current income from these investments which remains quite high.

**Trend**

The growing worldwide trend towards privatisation is catching up with the Gulf region. Privatisation is most commonly used to describe the total or partial transfer of state assets to private ownership.

In addition, it can denote the contracting out to private suppliers of the provisions of goods and services previously furnished by public authorities.

At least 60 state owned entities have been shifted to the private sector worldwide in the last three years raising proceeds totalling around \$50 billion.

To be continued

## Gold eases

## Dollar, yen firm as stock markets surge

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): The dollar and the yen rose today, closely tracking each other's gains in an upward surge that left Britain's pound sterling mixed and other European currencies sagging.

Investors in European shares thought that was good news. Weak currencies gave companies an edge in export markets.

London's FTSE index of 100 blue chip shares rose more than 20 points in early trading to approach 1,850.

Gold eased. In London, the price of bullion was fixed at \$442.80 an ounce this morning, down \$2.70 from yesterday afternoon's rate. Oil prices were firmer.

The dollar rose more than half a penny to a high of 1.69 marks and was up a cent to trade at \$1.8245 to the pound sterling.

But it was barely changed at 128.30 yen, while the yen itself rose to trade at 132.00 marks per 100 yen from 131.20.

While the pound dropped against the dollar, it was up half a penny to 3.10 marks.

**Nervous**

"The mark has not been performing too well this week, just when we'd all got used to it doing nothing but strengthen and it's got everyone a bit nervous," said Sykes Wilford, an economist at investment bankers Drexel Burnham Lambert in London.

In a way, sterling remains key to currency rates in Europe. Its two hit week surge past 3.10 marks had hit other currencies, too,

especially the French franc and the dollar.

But the dollar got a boost yesterday when the US Commerce Department reported a smaller than expected \$12.44 billion trade deficit in January.

Now, some traders are betting on a reshuffling of European interest rates to ease pressures on currency rates — in Britain, the Bank of England pushed through a half percentage point cut in rates yesterday to slow sterling's rise.

Meanwhile, complicating the picture still further, is heavy buying of dollars by Japanese financial institutions preparing their accounts for the March 31 end of their financial year, said Evelyn Brodie, an economist at Morgan Grenfell and Co Ltd.

And the rest of the world is betting that a strong Japanese economy will soon force the government to raise interest rates, making yen bank accounts and bonds a profitable investment.

**Strong**

Investors are already enthusiastic about Japanese shares.

So much so, in fact, that Japanese government sources say Bank of Japan Governor Santoshi Sumita warned the cabinet that share prices were rising too quickly.

Tokyo share prices rose edging closer to their all-time high, and brokers said optimism following news of a smaller-than-expected US January trade deficit helped boost the market.

The key Tokyo share index rose 93.97 points, or 0.36 per cent, to 25,966.26, after briefly topping 26,000 in morning trade for the first time since October 16, just before the stock crash.

The Tokyo stock index record, set on October 14 last year, is 26,646.43.

Some brokers said the announcement of the US January trade deficit of \$12.44 billion which pushed Wall Street stocks and the dollar up in New York yesterday, was greeted in Tokyo in a more subdued manner.

"Given that the trade figures were good, the market is not performing too strongly," a broker said. "A lot of buying has already been done in anticipation of good numbers."

Market forecasts of the US trade shortfall had ranged from \$13 billion to 14 billion.

In Frankfurt, the 30-share Boersen-Zeitung index jumped 4.1 points higher to open at 308.49.

**Gained**

The Paris Bourse indicator rose 0.4 per cent, while the All-Share Swiss index was up 7.2 points at 866.9 and Milan's MIB index gained 1.6 per cent. Amsterdam's CBS all share index gained 0.5 points to open at 84.2.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 26.27 points to 2,607.60 and Sydney's all ordinaries rose 32.2 points to 1,414.7 as dealers reported heavy buying by Australian financial institutions, for the first time this year.

## Britain cuts interest rates

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): Britain cut interest rates yesterday to try to check a rise in the value of the pound sterling which has threatened to erode its export earnings.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher denied in parliament that the move was a reversal of the line she had seemed to take last week when she told legislators "you cannot buck the markets."

But it seemed to opponents that Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, who has advocated exchange rate flexibility, had wavered in differences with Thatcher and buttressed his influence over economic policy.

The Bank of England (central bank) signalled the round of interest rate cuts when it announced it was trimming its money market lending rate by half a percentage point to 8.5 per cent. Big commercial banks took the cue and cut base lending rates to 8.5 per cent. These had risen to 9.0 per cent on February 1.

**Action**

Currency dealers said the action showed the government was determined to hold sterling below 3.10 West German marks — it closed the day worth 3.0987 marks and \$1.8390, after going above 3.10 marks and \$1.85 during the day.

Lawson is now saying 3.10 is the ceiling and he has much less leeway to weaken on that this time around," said Stephen

Lewis, economist at brokers Phillips and Drew.

The previous ceiling perceived by the markets through most of the winter was three marks. The pound finally broke through that barrier at the end of last month, as relatively high British interest rates attracted money to sterling assets.

**High**

Since then it has risen sharply as interest rates stayed high and Tuesday saw Lawson bring in a tax-cutting budget.

Meanwhile, the government, said yesterday, that February unemployment fell to 2.53 million, down from 2.56 million in January and the 20th monthly decline in a row.

Last weekend there seemed to be sharp differences between Lawson and Thatcher over the pound — although Lawson, in a radio interview yesterday, dismissed reports of a rift with Thatcher as "last week's story."

Besides saying "you cannot buck the markets," Thatcher had last week stressed a need to keep down inflation.

**Strong**

The pound surged in response — markets judging that she was vetoing an early cut in interest rates to cap sterling's rally, on grounds that cheaper money might send inflation higher.

Economists and legislators said the interest rate cut certainly looked like a victory for Lawson. Labour Party opposition

leader Neil Kinnock told Thatcher he was "happy to welcome the right honourable lady's reconversion to managed (currency) floating ... but isn't the real problem that while the Chancellor is a manager, she is still a floater?"

Thatcher retorted that Tuesday's budget showed a strong economy and, since last week, "there has been a strengthening of the exchange rate which has tightened monetary conditions, all of which made possible the reduction in interest rates."

Kinnock, scathingly asked if Thatcher "understands that, when a country's currency is floated, it is not a manager, it is a market? She said her comments had fitted conditions when she made them."

Labour is out for the government's blood on economic issues following Lawson's 1983-89 budget on Tuesday which included big tax cuts for top earners at a time when the opposition says the nation's public health service badly needs more cash.

Lawson cut the basic rate of income tax by two percentage points to 25 per cent and created one top rate of tax, of 40 per cent. Top rates had ranged up to 60 per cent.

Investors in London stocks, who have been worried about the damage the strong pound may do to export earnings, were not over-impressed by the interest rate cut.

## Venezuela lowers '88 income estimates

CARACAS, Venezuela, March 18, (AP): The state oil industry has revised downward its 1988 income estimates by slicing \$1.80 off its budgeted average per barrel price.

But total income will be only around \$100 million less than originally estimated by increasing sales volume and cutting oil industry imports, Energy Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said.

Hernandez, speaking before a congressional panel on Tuesday, said the industry's new price goal is \$14.90 per barrel rather than \$16.70.

**Goal**

The new export volume goal is 1,594,000 barrels per day, from original estimates of 1,520,000 barrels, through the sale of an additional 74,000 barrels per day of condensates, he said.

Venezuela's Opec crude oil output quota is 1,571,000 barrels per day. A barrel contains 42 gallons (159.6 litres).

The changes will result in gross income of \$9.05 billion, down from original estimates of \$9.65 billion, Hernandez said.

**Price**

But Petroleos de Venezuela expects to import \$500 million less than it originally planned and may cut other expenses "of strategic character," the minister said.

"With these decisions the reduction in foreign exchange income could be limited to just \$100 million, which is a manageable amount," he said.

An additional 20 cents to the new average price estimate would cover the reduction, he said.

## AI to continue flights to Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, March 18, (Reuters): India's national carrier Air India has dropped its plan to stop all flights to Malaysia from April 1.

"We have reviewed the decision and will continue operations to Malaysia," the airline's representative, Francis Coelho, said in a statement.

Air India, which has been flying to Malaysia for 20 years, announced two weeks ago that it would stop all flights because the routes were unprofitable. It has three flights a week to Kuala Lumpur.

## Per capita income rises more than 20pc

## Japan's economy bounces back strongly

TOKYO, March 18, (Reuters): Japan's economy bounced back strongly last year and economists say they expect continued healthy growth in 1988.

The government announced on Thursday that the economy grew 4.2 per cent in 1987, after rising only 2.6 per cent the year before, the worst performance in more than a decade.

**Slowdown**

The economic turn-around is good news for Japan's trading partners, especially the United States, who have been pressing Tokyo to boost growth and increase imports in order to help right the world's lopsided trading patterns.

The recovery was paced by domestic demand, especially a boom in housing construction

fostered by low Japanese interest rates.

Imports rose more than nine per cent in 1987, another piece of good news as far as Japan's trading partners are concerned.

Economists said Japan was able to shrug off the yen-induced slowdown in growth in 1986 because the government helped foster a rise in domestic demand last year. They expect the economy to continue to grow at a fast clip in the months ahead, although at a somewhat slower pace than it did in the closing months of 1987.

In the October/December quarter, the economy grew at an annual rate of seven per cent, following growth of nearly 8-1/2 per cent in the previous three months.

The economy's stellar performance in the closing months of last year makes it almost a certainty that growth for the 1987/88 fiscal year, ending March 31, will top the government's 5.7 per cent target, government officials told reporters.

**Performance**

That contrasts sharply with the performance in 1986, when the strong yen hit Japanese exporters hard, forcing them to raise prices and lose sales in the lucrative US market.

But the benefits of the strong yen started to show through last year, as import prices fell, boosting corporate profits, economists said.

Prices fell 0.2 per cent last year, the first decline since 1958. In 1986, inflation was 1.9 per cent.

## Opec wrestling with pricing strategy

JAKARTA, March 18, (Reuters): Five key Opec members have consulted on strategies to counter tumbling world oil prices but have not agreed on what to do if they meet, Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto said today.

Oil prices firmed in the United States on reports that the five-member price monitoring committee would meet soon to take action to shore up prices.

**Contacts**

Subroto said the president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman, would decide if a meeting was necessary.

Subroto told reporters after Friday Muslim prayers: "The five ministers from the pricing committee continue their contacts for an agreement. However, we have not yet come to one

agreement on what steps need to be taken so we continue to consult."

Prices have fallen on reports that some members of Opec have offered extensive discounts to some customers.

Subroto said prices were fluctuating because of psychological factors.

"If it is said there are discounts the price goes down. If Lukman holds a press conference, the price goes up. This is felt primarily in the futures market. Fundamental supply, demands and stocks, in practice, have not changed," he said.

**Warned**

US oil prices rose after official sources in Nigeria on Thursday said Lukman would call a news conference next Tuesday to discuss the oil market.

Subroto earlier this week warned other members of the oil

producers' organisation that Indonesia would feel free to go its own way if members violated a December pricing and production agreement, which set a reference price of \$18 a barrel.

"Subroto's warning could be interpreted as a sign that Indonesia may stop being a 'good boy' within Opec," the Jakarta Post said in an editorial on Thursday.

Indonesia could sell its oil "at prices buyers are buying and produce as much oil as foreign buyers can take to offset falling earnings caused by the price decline," the Post said.

Indonesia produced close to its 1.19 million barrels a day Opec quota in February, oil industry sources say.

Oil trade sources in Japan said Saudi Arabia has offered to sell its Arabian light oil to Japanese clients at less than the Opec-mandated benchmark price of \$18 a barrel.

## Arig to host Arab reinsurers meeting

ARAB Insurance Group (Arig) will host the ninth meeting of Arab reinsurance companies, to be held on March 20 at the Sheraton Hotel, Bahrain.

Arig will also hold a reception in the evening of the same day at the Regency Inter-Continental Hotel.

These international meetings of Arab reinsurers are held on a bi-annual basis to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Representatives from Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco and Bahrain will take part.

The delegates will visit on March 21, Arig House, the company's head office in Bahrain diplomatic area and, in the afternoon, a tour of Bahrain has been arranged.

## Iran to become major gold producer

NICOSIA, March 18, (Reuters): Iran has discovered large deposits of gold and will become a major producer in the future, Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said yesterday.

Mousavi, speaking on Tehran radio monitored in Cyprus, said Iran should invest in gold mining and acquire the technology.

He spoke of at least three major mines, and said one of them was also rich in palladium, molybdenum and aluminium ores. He gave no other details.

## Cairo cuts oil prices to 16-month low

CAIRO, March 18, (Reuters): Egypt announced a 75-cent cut in its crude oil prices yesterday, the second reduction in two weeks that brought them to a 16-month low.

A spokesman for the state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation said top-quality Suez and Ras Bahar blends would now sell for \$13.25 a barrel, their lowest level since November 1986.

Prices for all grades were earlier cut by one dollar for the first half of March, in an apparent attempt to keep Egypt's share of a glutted world market.

Oil is a major foreign exchange earner for Egypt, which last week called a meeting in London of non-Opec producers to discuss the downturn in world prices.

No statements have been made at the meeting, attended by representatives from Angola, China, Malaysia, Oman, Colombia, Mexico and Egypt. But one official said it was continuing at the Mexican embassy.

Oil Minister Abdel-Hadi Kan-



# ARAB TIMES Classifieds

# MARKET PLACE

## ACCOMMODATION

### For Rent

**SALWA**, Block 6, Al Qurtuba Street, No. 320, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one kitchen, large dining room, private entrance, central A/C. Partly furnished, with tele. line. Tele. 5655565, 5636568. (AT6-41416-2)

**BAYAN**, 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom, central A/C with water and electricity. Rent KD240. Tele. Abbas, 2610471, 7:30 am - 9 pm. 4811992, 4-7 pm. (AT6-41418-3)

**MISHREF**, a villa, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, plus 3 rooms on the ground floor, with a garden. Rent KD400. Tele. 5385501, 2-4 pm only. (AT4-41395-6)

### Available

**IN Salwa**, House 196, Block 7, behind Irani shop. Two big rooms with all facilities, for a family/bachelors to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 34, 102. Rent KD50 each. Tele. 5611243. (AT2-41387-6)

**DASMAN**, Area 2, rooms for families. Tele. Abu Delal, 2404223, 2532730. (AT1-41445-2)

**SHARQ**, behind the Sharq fire station, for bachelors to share with an Indian family. Tele. 4837518, 9 am - 1 pm. (AT6-41430-3)

**SALMIYA**, Baghdad Street, behind Maiden Pharmacy, in a 2 bedroom flat for 2 bachelors with a Mengalorian family. Meets provided. Bus routes 14, 109, 30, 15, 19. Rent KD45 each. Tele. 4843988/9 ext 4184, 10 am - 4 pm. (AT6-41425-3)

## QURTUBA, 2 rooms with kitchen, toilet and separate entrance. Rent KD110. Tele. Mrs Barretto, 2514331. (AT6-41410-3)

### Computers

**SALMIYA**, near bhai puri shop. Two rooms with water and electricity for couples or two ladies. Rent KD50 for each room. Tele. 4841181, 4841100 ext 2096, 2-8 pm. (AT1-41441-3)

**MAIDAN Hawalli**, one room with separate bathroom for one Indian bachelor to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 14 and 15. Rent KD50. Tele. 5622760, after 2 pm. (AT6-41427-3)

**SALMIYA**, behind the fire station. One big independent room with a separate kitchen and water and electricity, for a family or two bachelors to share with an Indian family. Rent KD60. Tele. Vipan Oberoi, 4740801, 7:30 am - 1 pm, 4:30 - 7:30 pm. (AT5-41402-3)

## FOR SALE

### Boats

**OPTIMIST** fibreglass sailing dinghy, suitable for beginners or children. KD60. Also a local tent. KD15. Tele. 4895279. (AT5-41404-3)

**BROWNING 'Wild Green'** wind-surf, 3.60m, with 5.80m sail, wet suit, roof rack, in good condition. KD120. Tele. Nigel Whitaker, 5735307, 7 am - 4 pm. (AT1-41434-2)

## Miscellaneous

**FURNITURE** end AC's with or without flat available near the Indian school, Salmiya. Tele. 5643799. (AT5-41405-3)

## Cars

**AMIGA 1000**, excellent graphics, stereo sound, various software, now IBM compatible KD290. Panasonic printer, KD75. Like new. Tele. 5330514. (AT5-41392-3)

**MAZDA 826**, 1984. Fully automatic, with all new tyres, radio, cassette recorder. Insured till March 89. In excellent condition. KD1100 to company/KD49 per month instalments and KD175 for owner. Tele. Zakaria, 5632287, any time. (AT1-41422-3)

**CHEVROLET Caprica**, 1977 model. Full options, automatic, dark red. In excellent condition. Best offer. Tele. Dha 3982206, any time. (AT6-41411-2)

**HONDA Civic**, 1981, AC, automatic, silver, insured until November 1988, in good condition. KD300, cash. Tele. Nigel Whitaker, 5735307, 7 am - 4 pm. (AT1-41432-2)

**OLDSMOBILE Cutlass Supreme** Brougham 1984 (Aug), 2 doors, 64,000 km, in excellent condition. Tele. Mike, 4842988 ext. 4146, 8 am - 5 pm. (AT5-41401-3)

**DODGE Le Baron**, 1981 model. AC, fully automatic, maroon, 78,000 km, AM/FM stereo, in excellent condition. KD550 negotiable. Tele. 5720136. (AT6-41413-3)

## Furniture

**IKEA** corner sofa, KD40, fish-tank with stand, KD15, Hoover dryer, KD30, push chair KD15, six sitting cushions, KD30. Tele. 5630464. (AT6-41419-3)

## Register for DB III + course now

**Road Computers** Rehab Complex, Hawalli, Tel: 2668800

## SITUATIONS

### Wanted

**MAID**, Indian, with transferable visa, fluent English, worked with American and European families seeks full or part-time job. Tele. 5315655, 9 am - 1 pm. (AT1-41414-3)

**NISSAN Stanza**, 82 model, fully automatic, AC, dark red. In excellent condition. Best offer. Tele. Dha 3982206, any time. (AT6-41412-2)

**NISSAN Stanza**, Nov 83. Fully automatic. In excellent condition. KD730 cash. Tele. Michael, 2418017, after 7:30 pm. (AT1-41435-3)

**JAGUAR XJ6** 1982, AC, 5-speed, white, dark leather interior, 40,000 km, Zayani maintained in showroom condition. KD2000 last price. Tele. 5631482. (AT6-41417-3)

**TOYOTA Crown** super saloon 1983, AC, fully automatic, white, registered Dec 1983, in excellent condition. Tele. 2461372 morning, 4334048 after 3 pm. (AT6-41426-2)

**TOYOTA Corolla** 1984, automatic, brick red, 69,000 kms. AC, with sunroof and H.D. tyre, in excellent condition. KD1100 with S.P. Tele. Roy, 5638007. (AT1-41440-2)

## GENERAL SERVICE

For all your shifting with transportation, painting, wall papering, carpeting, & villa cleaning. We are at your service, with skilled workers. Contact Tel: 4748877. Timings — 8.00 am - 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm. Al Mawasin Trdg. (AT6-41419-3)

## Yoga Classes

For ladies and men at the Hilton, Tuesdays 10 - 11 am; Fridays 10.30 - 11.30 am; Sundays and Tuesdays 8 - 9 pm. For information, phone Mr Peter Jones 2533000 or come to classes directly. (AT6-41419-3)

## WANTED A Filipina Saleswoman

For a cassette shop in Fahaheel, with transferable visa. Good salary offered. Tel: 5721030 — 3918317

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**SALMIYA** to Fahaheel/Ahmedi and back in a luxurious van, 8 am - 1 pm, 4 - 8.30 pm. Tele. 3949387, after 3 pm. (AT6-41409-2)

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**FULLY** qualified guitar teacher required, to give lessons to a talented child. Tele. 2540486, 1-5 pm. (AT1-41437-3)

## For Rent

Fully furnished 1-bedroom apartment with CAC/heating. Fully carpeted, domestic appliances and direct telephone system provided. Location: Salmiya - Mughra Bin Shuba Street. Contact: John Rodrigues, Telephone: 4843565, 4846175, 4842837. Timing: 8 am to 5 pm - Sat. through Wednesday. (AT6-41409-2)

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2) House painting & plumbing job  
Good service and reasonable rate. Please contact "ARUN" telephone No. 5651839 after 4.30 pm. (AT6-41409-2)

## FOR RENT

Villa CAC, fully furnished in Mishref — KD 700/- Apartments in Jabriya — 3 rooms, CAC, KD 400/- Tel: 2429380-2457834. (AT6-41409-2)

## Al Azraq Real Estate

Villa available in Mishref — Ground floor, CAC, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining room, sitting room, saloon and a kitchen. Rent: KD 350/- Contact Tel: 2452199, 2452198. (AT6-41409-2)

## AVAILABLE PAINT & COATING CHEMIST

An Indian, currently working in the U.S.A. is willing to work with a progressive company in Kuwait, U.A.E. or Saudi Arabia. Highly experienced in industrial, automotive, marine, and architectural paints. Please contact: Shivasan Achary, P.O. Box 342, Skokie, IL 60076, U.S.A. Telephone: Area Code (312) 577-8763. (AT6-41409-2)

## REQUIRED

**Centre lathe/milling M/C Operator**  
For glass factory Mina Abdullah area, must be efficient and able to work accurately. English speaker preferred, transferable residence essential. Contact: Personnel Dept from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Tel: 3280455 - 3280456 - 3282257. (AT6-41409-2)

## CLASSIC SALOON CHAIR

This bucket-seated beauty is a triumph of design. Its stick shift control gives instant rotation, locking, elevation, reclining action. Agent and distributor: Mohammed N. Al-Hajery & Sons Tel: 2432298, 2434466 (AT6-41409-2)

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- ★ Cobol Programming
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- ★ Cobol Workshop
- ★ Data Base III + Programming
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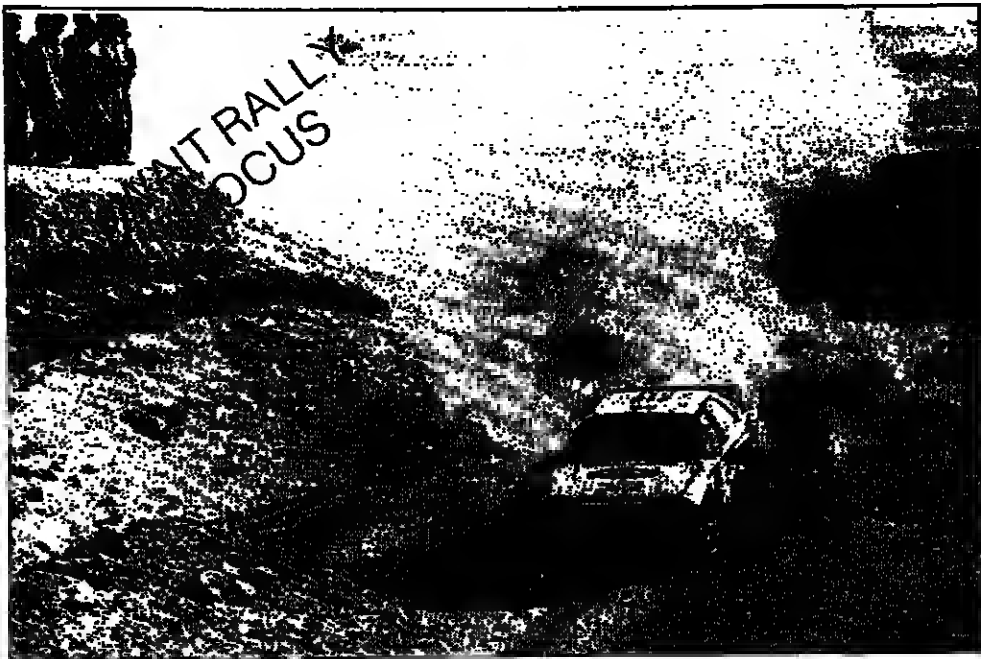
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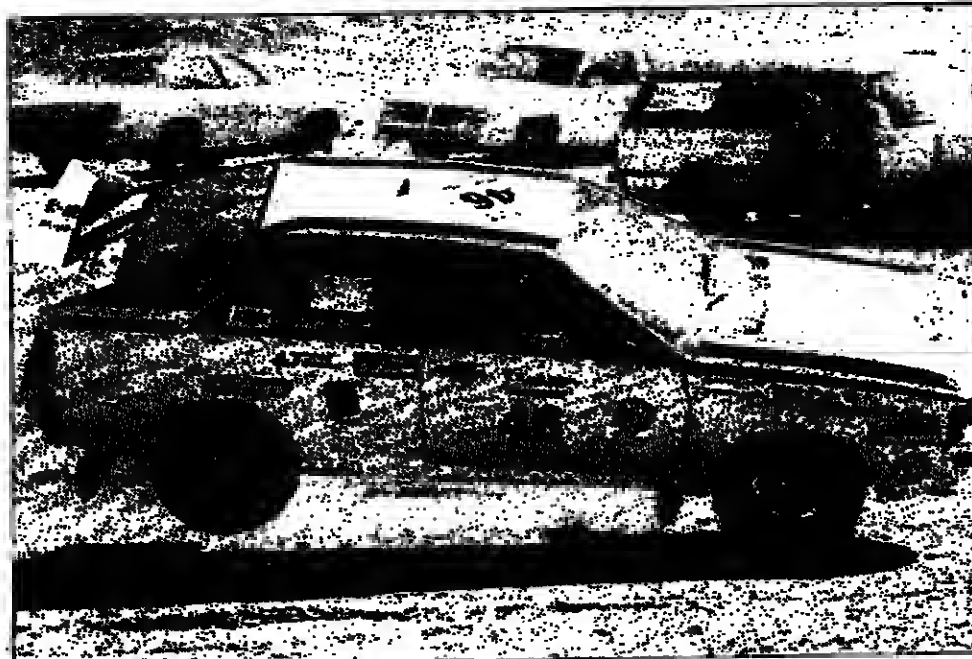




## SPORTS



Saeed Al Hajri going full speed.



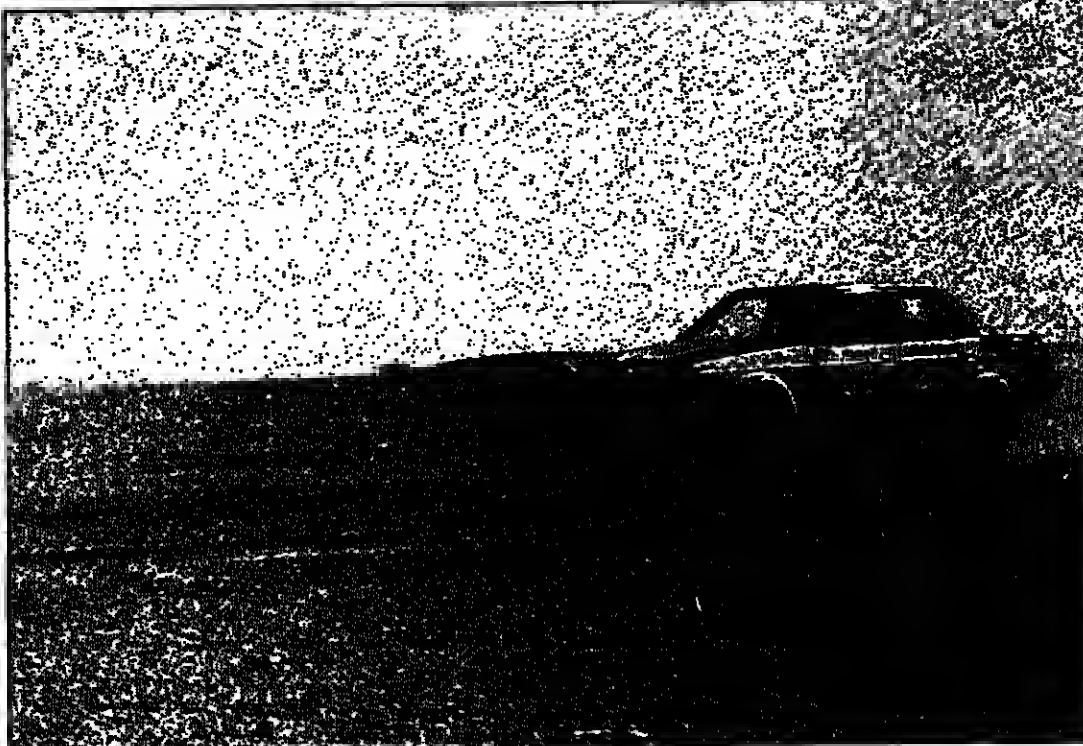
Michel Saleh does a balancing act.



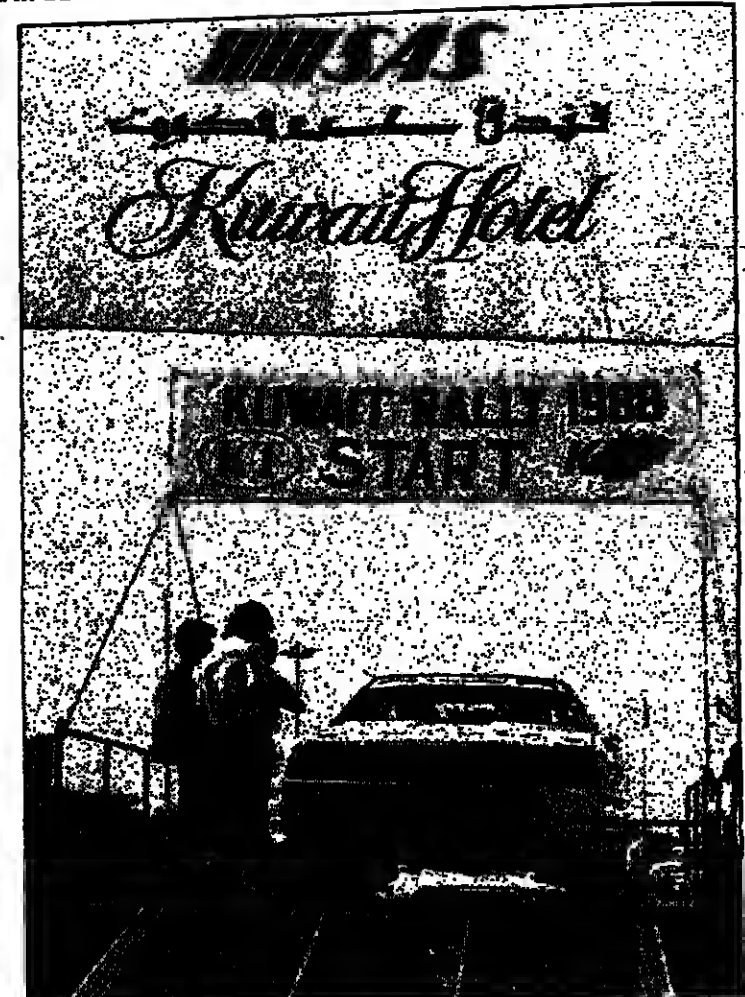
A Toyota engulfed in dust.



Bin Sulayem (left), Morgan (2nd left) and Al Hajri (right) take a log ride at the Entertainment City on Thursday.



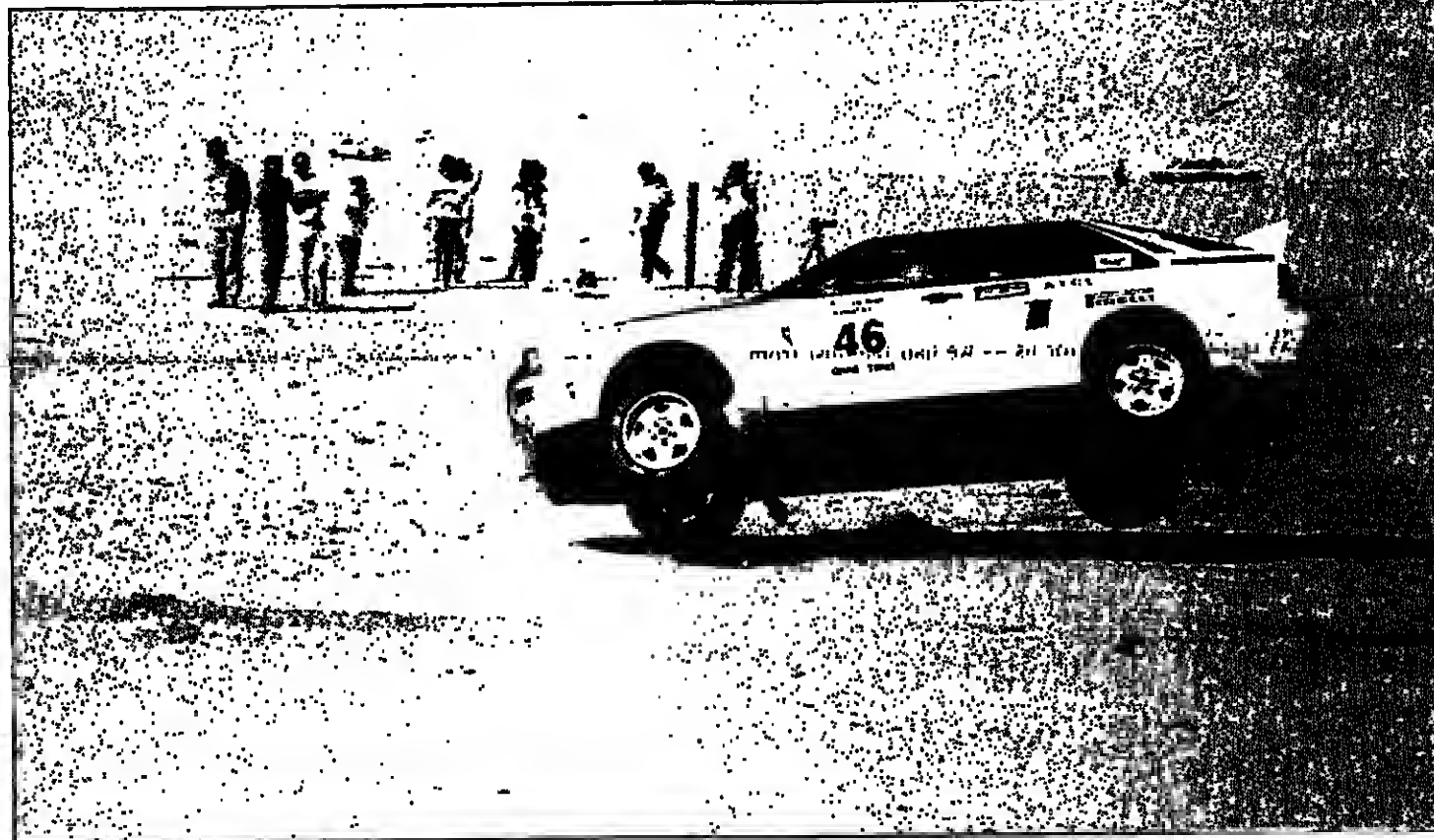
Ali Al Blami on one of the stages.



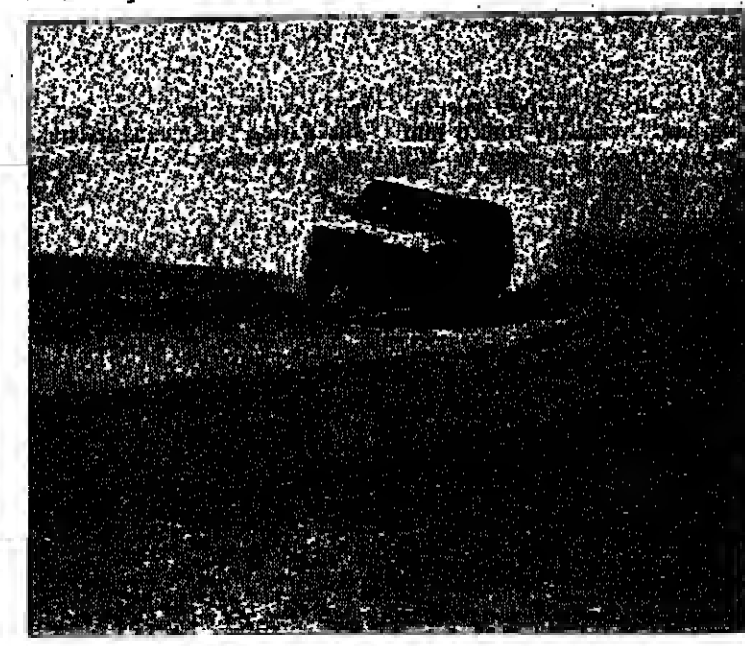
Bin Sulayem at the start of the rally.



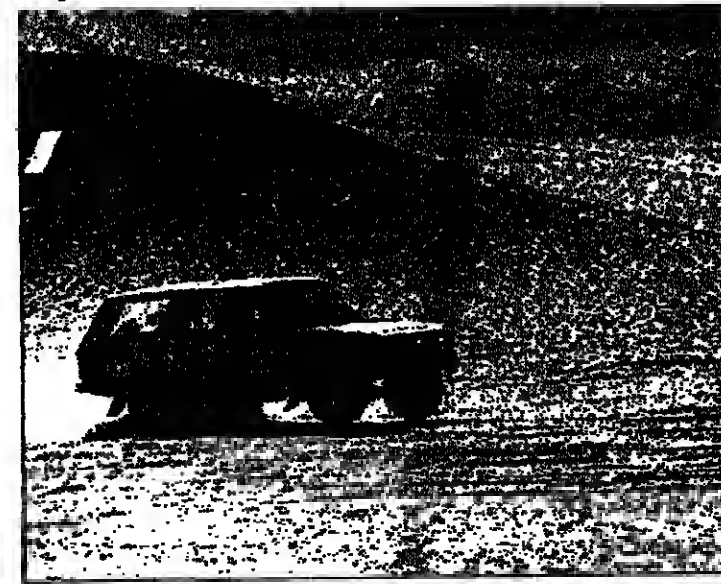
Bin Sulayem, Morgan and Al Hajri: taking time off from the rally.



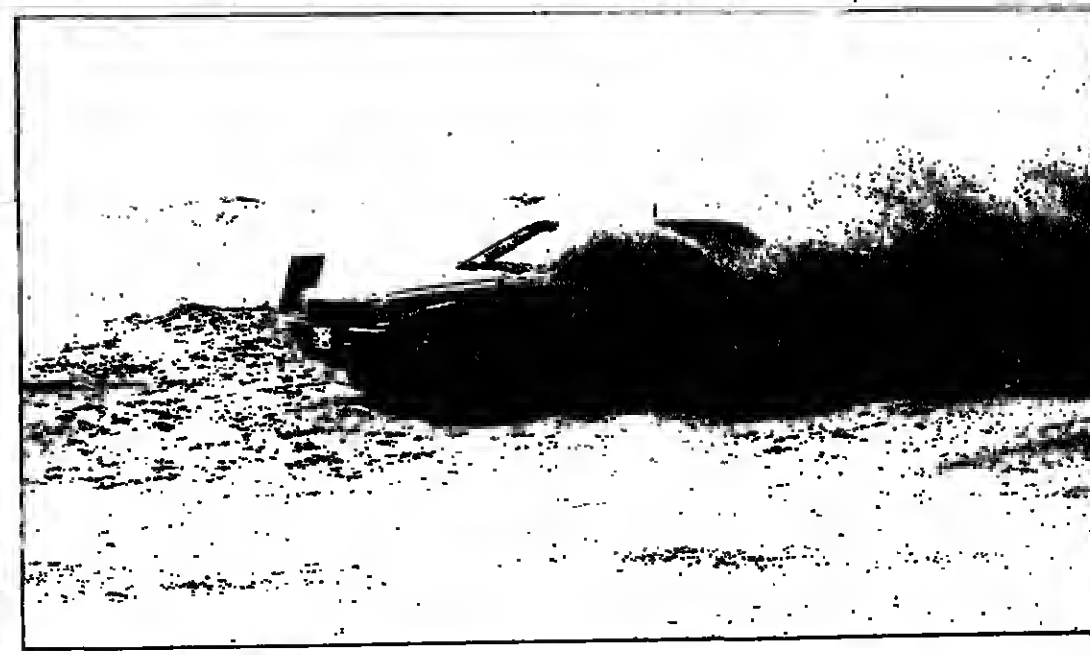
Michel Saleh and Ottmar Lange find it easy to drive on one wheel.



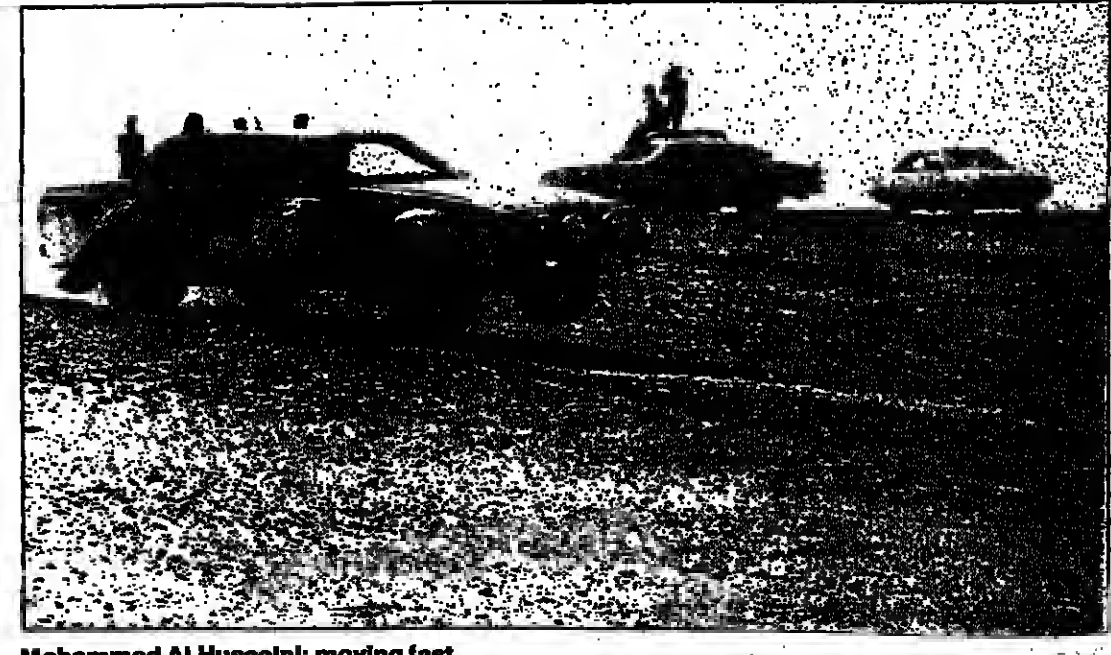
Eld Falah and Sadeq Ashkanani.



Tareq Al Wazzan and Khaled Khalifa.



Al Hajri churns up the sand.



Mohammed Al Hussein: moving fast



One of the spectators finds a nice spot to watch the rally.



Morgan (on top of the car) and Bin Sulayem take rest.

Mechanics look at Al Hajri's car.  
(Photos by Mark Williams, Gail Seery, Mohammed Nayer and Javed Basra)

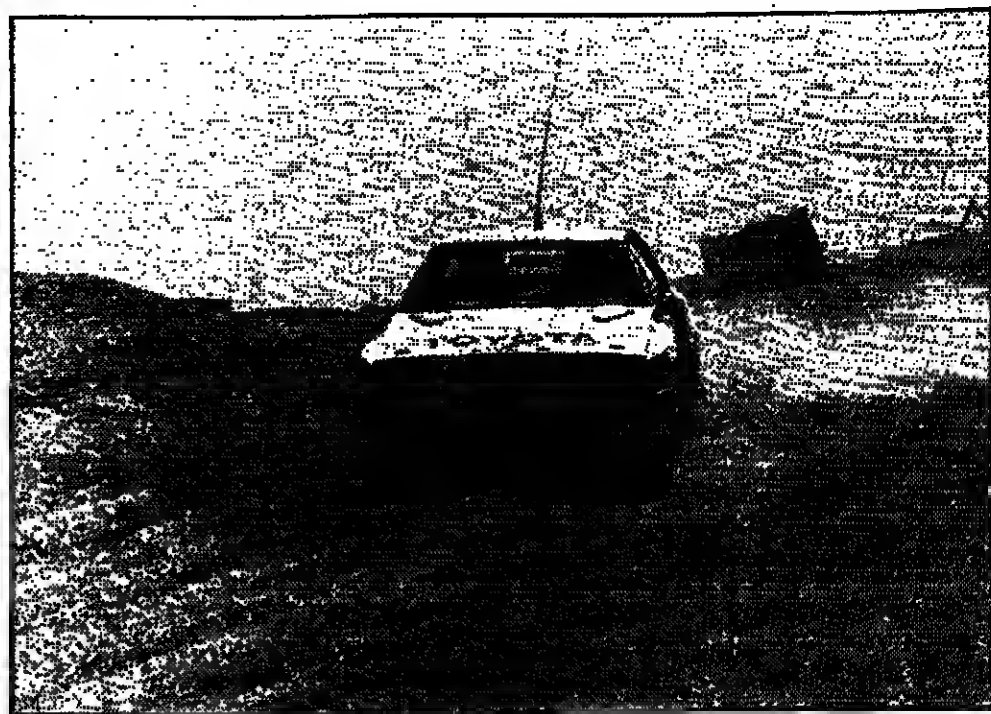




Al Hajri covers Gail Seery in dust.



Bin Sulayem negotiates a sharp curve at full speed.



Al Sowaldi tries to catch up on the leaders in yesterday's stages.

## STEWARDS' SHOCK DECISION IN KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL RALLY

# Al Hajri's victory squashed

## Bin Sulayem finishes in 1.54.37

By Gail Seery

IN the shock stewards' decision last night, Saeed Al Hajri found his splendid victory over Mohammed Bin Sulayem in the Kuwait International Rally squashed.

Earlier, it had appeared that Al Hajri had achieved his victory in a finish time of 1.53.21 despite a few mechanical problems.

Bin Sulayem, the reigning Middle East Champion, had complained of a lack of traction on the very fast but soft stages which formed the second day's racing. Even so, he had come through with a finish of 1.54.37 just one minute and 16 seconds behind Al Hajri.

Third place was taken by Sultan Al Sowaidi, with navigator David Orrick in a Toyota Celica — one of Sulayem's old practice cars. He fought long and hard with locally-based Josef Miskulnig, and eventually forced him back into a very narrow 4th place. Fifth was Faez Chihab, a well deserved placing for Kuwait's first ever National Champion.

Unfortunately the Audi Quattro driven by Michel Saleh, partnered by Ottmar Lange, did not finish the rally. They had been running a good third throughout the event, and had been extremely fast at times. They put in some spectacular driving which left spectators gawping. However in stage eight they had engine problems which forced them out of the running. "We were going well on seven, and on eight it was fantastic from the beginning," Lange told the Arab Times. "Then suddenly there was a strong vibration. We stopped. We think an engine bolt came loose and damaged the sump. I'm very disappointed."

**Presence**  
Saleh was disappointed but philosophical. "That's a rally. He confirmed that he would be driving the full calendar of Middle East Championship events — a treat for rally enthusiasts, as the presence of a third driver, so close in skill and speed to Hajri and Sulayem makes the events much more exciting."

Indeed, it was a rally full of disappointments, and especially for local drivers. Stage one of the first day took an enormous toll on Kuwait's finest drivers. Ahmed Al Zafiri, the first Kuwaiti to start, barely reached the first stage; coming round the first major bend of the day he was at almost a snail's pace, and never made it to the end of the stage.

Tareq Al Wazzan was to break

just a little later. "On stage one we were going flat out. There was a small jump — nothing dangerous — then after landing the tyre and axle at the left front broke away."

The next to go was Mubarak Al Hajri. This youngster was expected to mount a strong challenge, but the oil pump belt broke and the team had no spare. It was doubly frustrating for them to be out of the rally in this way.

Then Ahmed Al Hilal went with electrical/engine problems. Even Mohammed Al Hussein, driving under a Commercial Bank logo, found himself leaving the stage with one shock absorber pushed up through the bonnet of the car. He hurt his hand in trying to control the car, but pushed on bravely, only to go out disappointingly close to the end of the rally.

Ali Al Birami followed their example and went out with gearbox problems before the end of the first leg. This means that none of the established Kuwait drivers were able to take a good position. Eid Falah had gearbox troubles on stage 11. He hurt his hand badly on the broken gear, but was determined to keep going and to finish as high as possible. That he managed to retain a top 10 position with no high gear on his Al Zayani Range Rover is commendable.

Tareq Alyan and wife Khuloud drove consistently and well to finish eighth in the low-powered Denim Daihatsu Charade. His driving showed

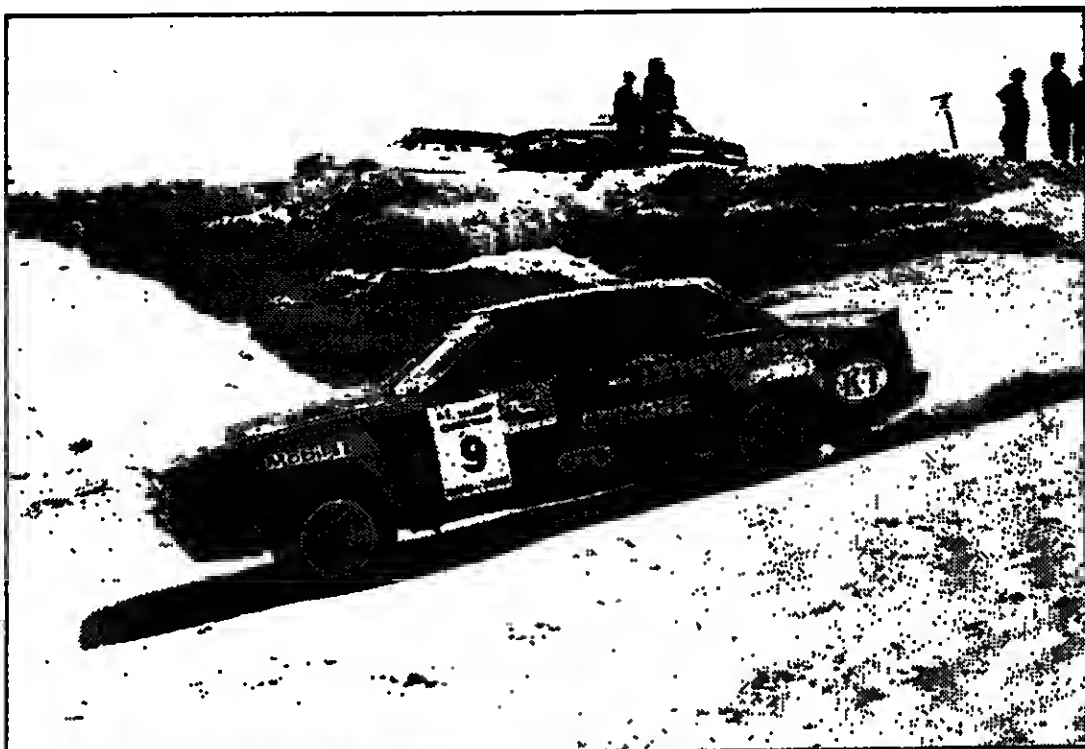
maturity, and he has maintained his record of finishing every rally he enters.

As predicted by Michel Saleh in his interview with the Arab Times, there were a number of distinct and separate battles being fought throughout the day. The first was between Al Hajri and Bin Sulayem, with Saleh never really out of touch with the leaders until he broke. Then there was the second struggle between Abbas Al Mousawi who ran most of the rally in fourth place, Sultan Al Sowaidi of Qatar, Mohammed Al Hussein and Josef Miskulnig, who from the start put in some convincing and skilled driving.

On the first stage Mohammed Bin Sulayem was some seventy five seconds faster than Al Hajri, who suffered electrical problems on the stage which affected his power. Bin Sulayem had problems of his own on the leg, damaging his steering and being forced to rebuild it at service. From then on Al Hajri was fastest on each stage, and by the end of the day had cut Sulayem's lead back to 18 seconds. Sulayem, driving his Toyota Celica second into the stages was under a disadvantage from the dust kicked up by the car ahead on the night stages. This was lying in the air and refusing to settle, making visibility poor.

Lange in car three was unsym-

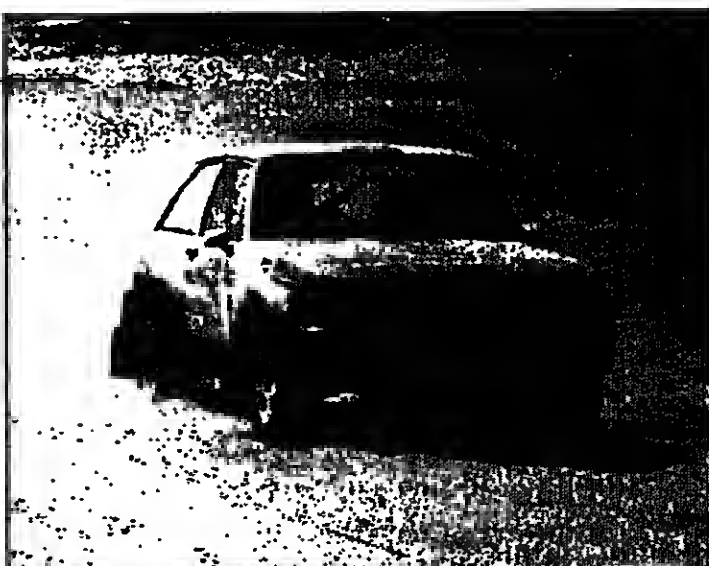
**Photos by Mark Williams, Gail Seery, Mohammed Nayef and Javed Basra.**



Miskulnig on his way to 4th place.

pathetic. "Well it was even worse for us — we had the dust from two cars!"

Although many Kuwait Rally enthusiasts estimated that the Toyota would have the advantage on day two the reverse was the case. Sulayem told the Arab Times, "What we need is another axle at the front!" He said "That's Kuwait Rally. The surface is soft and doesn't suit the Celica."



Abbas Al Mousawi and A. Wahid Al Haye.



Mohammed Al Hussein and Ibrahim Al Mousa.



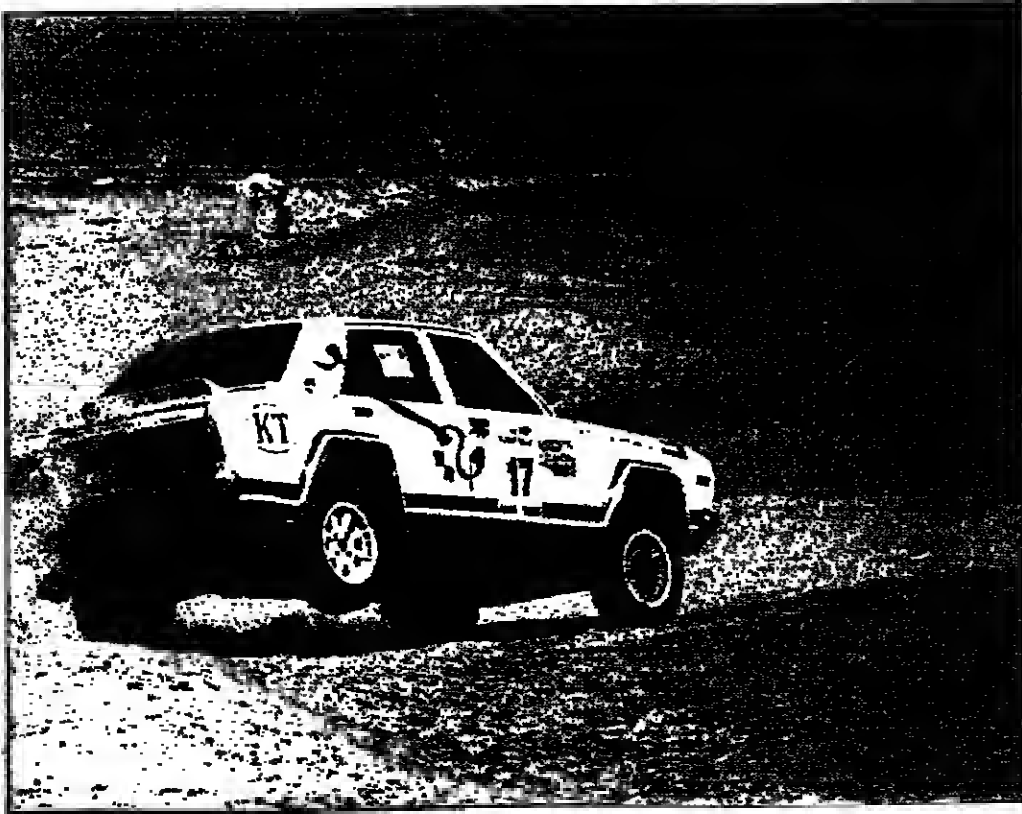
Morgan takes rest after one of the stages.



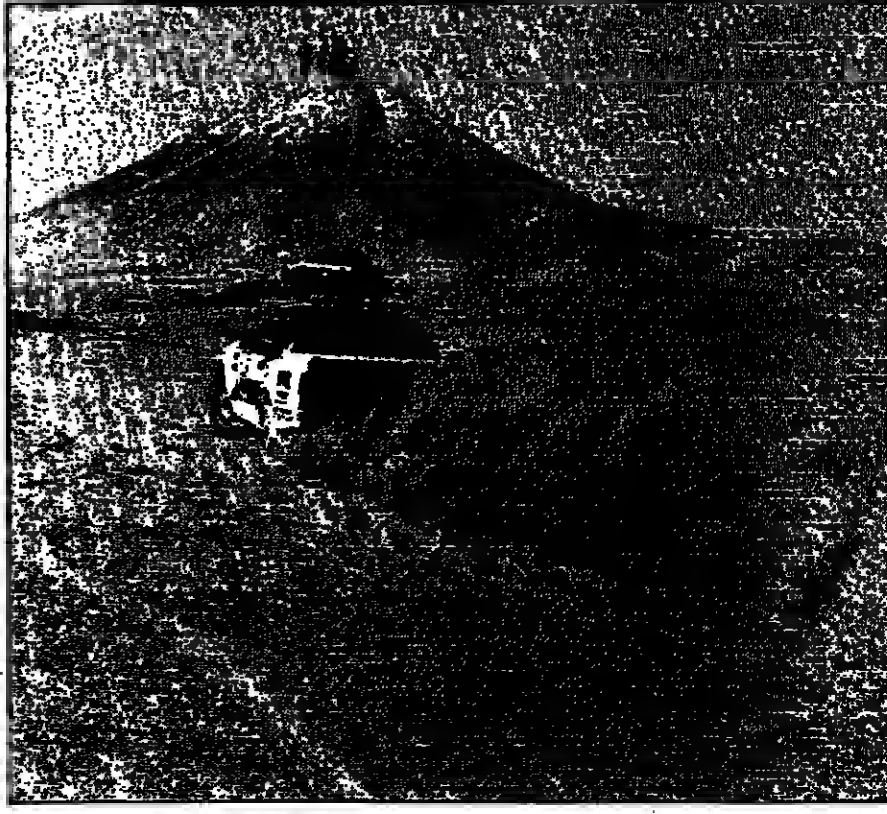
Some of the cars line up at the finish.



Tareq Al Alyan and Khuloud Al Alyan.



Samir Al Hussein and Jasim Al Zafiri.



Mohammed Bin Sulayem attempts to catch Al Hajri.



## SPORTS

## Spencer announces retirement

SHREVEPORT, LA, March 18, (Reuters): Three-time world motorcycle racing champion Freddie Spencer announced on Wednesday his retirement from the sport.

"I've been racing hard for the better part of 20 years," the American rider known worldwide as "Fast Freddie," said, in making his surprise announcement. "It's time I gave my body a rest."

Spencer said he made his retirement decision before next week's season opener in Suzuka, Japan, after suffering severe tendonitis in his right wrist during recent machine testing in Australia.

Spencer underwent wrist surgery in 1986 and was sidelined for the season. But despite the surgery he developed tendonitis in the wrist and the recurring problems from it led him to retire.

**Fit**  
"After the HRC (Honda Racing Corp) training programme in California this winter, I felt fit and was eager for the season to begin. But I expect a certain level of performance from myself, with the only objective being to win the world title," he said.

"With this injury, I don't feel that I can consistently produce that expected level throughout the season," Spencer said.

The 26-year-old Spencer, who captured both the 500cc and 250cc world titles in 1985 — sustained a series of racing injuries the past few seasons, the most recent being a concussion suffered last August in Bologna, Italy.

## Draws made for UEFA soccer

GENEVA, March 18, (Reuters): The draws for the semifinals of the European Football Union's (UEFA) three major club competitions made here today were:

**UEFA Cup:**  
F.C. Bruges (Belgium) vs Espanol (Spain)  
(The winner of this tie will be at home in the first leg of the UEFA Cup final which is played in two legs.)

**Cup Winners' Cup:**  
Mechelen (Belgium) vs Atalanta Bergamo (Italy); Olympique Marseille (France) vs Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands)

**European Cup:**  
Real Madrid (Spain) vs PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands); Steaua Bucharest (Romania) vs Benfica Lisbon (Portugal).  
Matches to be played on a home and away basis on April 6 and 20 with the first named team at home in the first leg.

## Lendl gets wild card for Open

MONTE CARLO, March 18, (Reuters): World number one Ivan Lendl has been given a "wild card" entry to next month's Monte Carlo Open tennis tournament, the organisers said yesterday.

Tournament director Bernard Toldt said a new conference he had accepted the request by Lendl, who last played in the tournament in 1985 when he won it and was not originally entered this year.

**Fracture**  
Lendl has not played competitively since an X-ray on March 8 showed that injury to his right foot he had been treating as a bruise was in fact a stress fracture.

Sweden's Mats Wilander, second behind Lendl in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) computer rankings, will defend the Monte Carlo title from April 18-24.



Graf crushed Gomer

## BENFICA AND STEAU REACH SEMIFINALS

## Real struggle past Bayern

MADRID, March 18, (Reuters): Real Madrid, desperately seeking to end 22 years of frustration in the European Cup, made no pretence at elegance on Wednesday as they forced their way into next month's semifinals with a narrow and ugly victory over Bayern Munich.

In a rugged second leg tie, marred by endless stoppages and seven cautions, Madrid triumphed 2-0 for a 4-3 aggregate triumph which sent their noisy fans howling and shouting into a night of celebrations.

**Joined**  
First half goals by Yugoslav midfielder Milan Jankovic and Spanish international Michel secured the Spaniards' passage to the last four where they will be joined by two other former winners Benfica of Portugal and Steaua Bucharest and the runaway leaders of the Dutch First Division PSV Eindhoven.

To many neutrals, a Madrid-Benfica final would be the most attractive as it would recreate an image of the great early years of the European Cup — Real dominated the tournament for its first five years and Benfica won it twice, in 1961 and 1962.

## Liverpool equal record

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): Liverpool equalled the English League record of 29 unbeaten soccer matches from the start of the season when they drew 1-1 at Derby on Wednesday night.

Runaway First Division leaders Liverpool now share the mark set by Leeds in the 1973-74 season, and will seek to beat it when they play Everton at their city arch-rivals' Goodison Park Ground on Sunday.

**Fired**  
Liverpool, beaten only once in 37 League and Cup games this season, were fired by a 54th-minute goal from Craig Johnston, the South African-born attacking midfielder who has been used as a makeshift striker for the last three games because John Aldridge is injured.

## Faldo and Allen share lead in golf Open

BARCELONA, Spain, March 18, (Reuters): British Open champion Nick Faldo and American Michael Allen had six-under-par 66s to take the first round lead in the \$200,000 (\$370,000) Barcelona Open golf championship yesterday.

They were a stroke ahead of another American, John de Forest, who was runner-up at the European Tour qualifying school in December, and 19-year-old Spanish amateur Jose Aruti.

**Collected**  
Faldo, who won the Spanish Open in 1987 to end three years without a title, collected seven birdies. The Briton had only 26 putts, holding a 50-foot chip for a two at the sixth.

Faldo, third in the Tournament of Champions on the US circuit and fourth in the Australian Masters this year, admitted: "I'm not striking the ball perfectly by any means but my short game was as hot as mustard today."

He holed five times from between 10 and 20 feet to boost his bid for a victory which would lift him alongside Severiano Ballesteros, winner of the Majorca Open last weekend but absent this week, at the top of the money list.

Allen, from San Francisco's Olympic Club, had six birdies, only once holing a putt longer than 10 feet. Although he was fourth in one British event in 1986 he slipped back to end 68th in last year's money league.

Aruti, a one handicapper from San Sebastian, had two eagle twos on his card.

Fellow-Spaniard Jose Maria Olazabal, runner-up to Ballesteros in Majorca and the winner here in 1986, was four under par with three to play but bogeyed the 16th to end in a group on 69.

## Charter Party triumphs

CHELSTENHAM, England, March 18, (Reuters): Charter Party won jumping's top prize, the Cheltenham Gold Cup, yesterday in race in which the front runners were involved in a near miss with a small dog.

In an action-filled event, previous winner Forge'n Forget had to be put down soon after the incident with the dog, while favourite Playschool was pulled up and is to be dope-tested.

**Contest**  
The second-seeds, Americans Jimmy C. McNors and Chris Evert, were both easy straight-set winners.

Fifth-seeded Andres Gomez was surprised by American Jay Berger 6-4 6-7 (4-7) 6-3 for the second straight year here. The 21-year-old American ten-



Barcelona's Gary Lineker (left) takes a shot at the goal as Bayern Leverkusen defender Reinhardt comes sliding in. (Reuters wirephoto)

Benfica went through on Wednesday to the semifinals with a less-than-satisfactory showing however as they lost 1-0 in Brussels to Anderlecht, but survived 2-1 overall.

Steaua Bucharest, hailed by only a few as a mastery team after their 1986 final win over Barcelona, proved their powers of endurance in their passage at the expense of Glasgow Rangers, who they beat 3-2 on aggregate

despite losing 2-1 in the second leg in Scotland. Marius Lacatus scoring the Romanians goal in only the third minute.

PSV Eindhoven, the highest scoring team in Europe, went through without finding the net — they drew 0-0 at home to Bordeaux but won by virtue of their goal at Bordeaux in the drawn first leg.

Ajax Amsterdam, who are the holders of the Cup Winners'

Cup, moved into the semifinals with a 2-0 overall victory over Berne.

Joining Ajax, now coached by Barry Hulshoff following the resignation of Johan Cruyff, in the last four were Marseille of France, Mechelen of Belgium and Italian Second Division team Atalanta.

Marseille beat Pallosetra of Finland 4-0 on aggregate, Mechelen overcame Dynamo Minsk of the Soviet Union 2-1 overall and Atalanta drew 1-1 in Lisbon with Sporting to secure their passage by 3-1.

One of the biggest shocks came in the UEFA Cup in which Barcelona were knocked out by West Germany's Bayer Leverkusen who won 1-0 in Spain after the first leg ended 0-0.

Werder Bremen, struggled to overcome Italy's Verona 2-1 on aggregate, but went through together with Belgium's club Brugge, who beat Panathinaikos of Athens 3-2 overall.

While Barcelona crashed out, their less-celebrated city rivals Espanol kept the Catalan flag flying with a 0-0 draw in Czechoslovakia with Vitkovice for a 2-0 overall win.

## Egypt crush Kenya in Africa Cup

RABAT, March 18, (Reuters): Two of the fastest goals in the history of the Africa Nations Cupset Group B tonight yesterday with Egypt getting their bid to regain the trophy back on course with a 3-0 drubbing of Kenya.

Also in Group B, Nigeria held Cameroon to a 1-1 draw leaving both teams on three points at the top of the section.

Egyptian striker Abdelhamid Gamal had the ball in the net in just over 90 seconds, but that was nearly a minute slower than Nigeria's Sam Okwaraji.

Okwaraji blasted the ball into the Cameroon goal from 20 yards with his first touch of the ball just after the game started.

Playing with verve and skill, and urged on by a band of drum-beating supporters, the Egyptians set a furious pace from the opening whistle.

They received a flying start when Shawky Ghareeb's pass from midfield beat the Kenyan offside 'trap' and Gamil Cooly lofted the ball over the stranded Kenyan keeper from 12 yards out.

Disaster struck the Kenyans when in the 58th minute Ghareeb had his bells clipped by a defender. While the Kenyan defence waited for the referee's verdict, the ball broke loose to Zaky Ayman who rounded the keeper and scored easily.

On Wednesday evening hosts Morocco beat Algeria 1-0 in a pulsating tie while Ivory Coast and Zaire drew 1-1 in the other game that pitted physique against finesse.



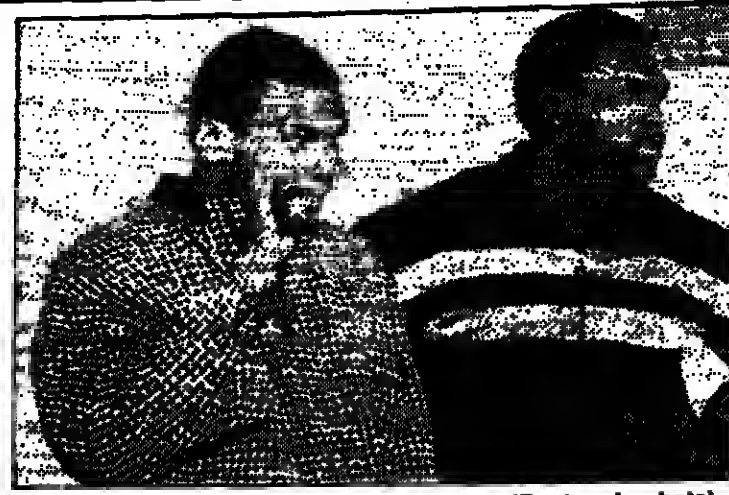
Botham (left) arrives at the court for a preliminary appearance accompanied by Dennis Liffie, the former Australian fast bowler who stood bail for Botham. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Lord's to seek report of Botham's court hearing

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): English cricket authorities have asked for a report to be sent to them on next Wednesday's court appearance in Perth, Australia, of Ian Botham.

The former England captain made a preliminary appearance yesterday charged with assaulting two passengers and disorderly conduct on a flight from Melbourne to Perth for the final of the Sheffield Shield cricket final starting today.

Police alleged Botham, currently playing for Queensland, grabbed a passenger in a headlock and



Tyson (left) and Tubbs at the press conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Tyson and Tubbs short on specifics

TOKYO, March 18, (Reuters): World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson and challenger Tony Tubbs bobbled and weaved through a press conference yesterday, ducking reporters' efforts to get specifics on their plans for Monday's title fight.

Both fighters repeatedly predicted victory, though neither American would name the round of conquest nor divulge strategy for the sold-out bout in the 50,000-seat domed Korakuen Stadium.

Tyson, the 21-year-old undisputed champion whose ferocious punching power and rock-hard body have brought him the nickname "Iron Mike," issued what was for him an ominous warning.

"I'm in tremendous shape," he said. "I look forward to victory." Asked about his strategy for the match, Tyson said: "You'll see in the fight."

To the same question, Tubbs said, "no strategies." "I know I'm the best fighter," the former World Boxing Association (WBA) champion said. "There can be no better match than Mike and me."

That view is not widely held.

Most analysts expect Tyson to prove a relatively easy winner.

Tubbs, 30, is taller and heavier than Tyson, and packs a decent punch, but he has looked less than fit while training here and has had weight problems throughout his boxing career.

Tubbs said his weight was 106 kg, and that he had hoped to be dropped another kilo by fight time.

There had been earlier reports, denied by both sides, that if he weighed more than 106.6 kg he would be replaced in the fight.

Tyson said his weight was at 99 kg.

The fight, scheduled to start at 0320 GMT on Monday, will be televised to more than 40 countries.

Tyson will be making his second defence under a \$26.5 million package deal for six title defences within a year. The first came in January when Tyson knocked out Larry Holmes in the fourth round in Atlantic City.

Tubbs, who will earn \$500,000, scored a knockout blow for honesty when asked why he had come to Japan to fight.

"I followed the money," he answered.

## Kiwis call Hadlee and Crowe for last game

WELLINGTON, March 18, (Reuters): New Zealand have added Richard Hadlee and Martin Crowe to their team for the last of four one-day games against England, to be played in Auckland tomorrow, though Crowe has yet to face a fitness test.

Hadlee injured a leg in the first Test at Christchurch in early February and has not played since. The champion all-rounder said he is not 100 percent fit but is available for the crucial Auckland match.

England lead the series 2-1 after their defeat in Wednesday's match in Napier.

Crowe was unavailable for the Napier game because of a back injury. He will have to pass a fitness test before he is considered for the final match.

Team: John Wright (captain), Robert Vance, Andrew Jones,

Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch, Ken Rutherford, Chris Kugeleijn, Richard Hadlee, Ian Smith, Martin Snedden, Willie Watson, Danny Morrison, Ewen Chatfield.

Meanwhile, England paceman Graham Dilley failed a fitness test today and is out of tomorrow's match.

Dilley injured his knee on the opening day of the third Test on March 3 and has not played since.

**Fit**  
England's other injury worries, David Capel and Martin Moxall, are both fit.

Eden Park officials expect a minimum crowd of 35,000, with the return of Hadlee and Crowe adding to local belief that New Zealand can level the series at 2-2.

## Two-way tie for Classic lead

ORLANDO, Florida, March 18, (Reuters): American Paul Azinger, the 1987 PGA Player of the Year, and compatriot Andrew Magee both posted five-under-par 66's yesterday to share the first round lead in the PGA's \$750,000 Bay Hill Classic golf tournament.

Azinger, who was second on the money list last year, had a six-birdie, one-bogey round over the 7,103-yard Bay Hill Country Club course as he seeks his first victory of the year.

Magee, who is in his fourth season on the tour, is looking for his first-ever win on the circuit and he used a seven-birdie, two-bogey round to move into contention for the \$135,000 first prize.

Did not bat: J. Dejon, W. Benjamin, C. Walsh, P. Patterson, C. Ambrose.

Bowling: Iman 8-0-46-1, Ajan 9-0-56-1 (w-1), Jaffer 9-0-59-1 (w-2), Qadir 10-0-64-0 (w-1), Madansar 4-0-32-0, Salim Malik 7-0-41-1.

West Indies: D. Haynes not out 142, P. Simmons c Salim Malik b Ajan 12, R. Richardson c Qadir b Jaffer 78, G. Greenidge c b Salim Malik 27, A. Legie c Younis b Iman 9, C. Hooper not out 27, Extras (b-4 lb-12 w-4) 28.

Total (for four wickets, 47 overs) 315.

Fall of wickets: 1-28 2-180 3-236 4-270.

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## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Fencing team

PARIS, March 18, (Kuna): The Kuwaiti fencing team of handicapped athletes returned home yesterday after taking fourth place in an international tournament.

## English striker

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): English First Division soccer club West Ham today ended their search for a striker when they signed 22-goal marksman Leroy Rosenior from Third Division Fulham for £275,000 (\$505,000).

## Liverpool player

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): Liverpool and key Ireland defender Mark Lawrenson today denied he was on the verge of quitting soccer because of injury problems.

## 1988 Games

TOKYO, March 18, (AP): The foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea will meet Monday in Seoul to discuss ways of preventing terrorism at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

## Boxing title

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): Lloyd Honeghan has kept his highest weapon under wraps for nearly five months but said yesterday he was certain his right hand remained potent enough to bring him back the world welterweight boxing title.

## Desert rally

NEW DELHI, March 18, (Kina): A desert car rally covering 1,400 kilometres in India's western state of Rajasthan will be held next month. The rally, called the Golden Cruiser Desert Rally, will be flagged off on April 2 in New Delhi.

## World record

MOSCOW, March 18, (Reuters): Igor Polyanski of the Soviet Union broke the world 100 metres backstroke record for the second time in two days on Wednesday when he swam 55.16 seconds one hundredth of a second faster than his time 24 hours earlier.

## W. Indies captain

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 18, (Reuters): West Indies cricket captain Viv Richards, who underwent an operation to remove an abscess on Sunday, said he expected to be fit for the first Test against Pakistan beginning on April 2.

## Iraq wins Gulf Cup

RIYADH, March 18, (Reuters): Iraq won the Gulf Soccer Cup today with a 1-0 victory over Bahrain. Experienced Iraq made its way to the top unbeaten in six games with 10 points in the seven-team round robin championship. It was the third time the Iraqis had won the Cup since the competition started in 1970. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) finished in second place with eight points and hosts Saudi Arabia third with seven.

## Late news

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, March 18, (Reuters): Scoreboard in the third one-day cricket international between West Indies and Pakistan today:

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